

ANALYSIS 7
UNDER IBC, PROTECTING
MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS

MONEY 8
KIRIT PANEL LIKELY TO SUGGEST
PRICE CAP FOR ONGC GAS

SPORTS 11
IND VS NZ: RAIN PLAYS
SPOILSPORT AGAIN

VIJAYAWADA, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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AISHWARYA RAJ'S
POWERFUL CHAR-
ACTER IN
SASANASABHA

Page 12

MODI STADIUM GETS GUINNESS RECORD FOR HIGHEST T20 ATTENDANCE: BCCI

The Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for the maximum spectator attendance during the 2022 IPL final, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Sunday. Earlier known as Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) Stadium, Motera the stadium has a capacity of 110,000 which is nearly 10,000 more than Melbourne Cricket Ground with an official capacity of 100,024. "Extremely delighted & proud to receive the Guinness World Record for the largest attendance at a T20 match when 101,566 people witnessed the epic, IPL final at @GCAMotera's magnificent Narendra Modi Stadium on 29 May 2022. A big thanks to our fans for making this possible," Shah tweeted.

MINOR ABANDONS HER NEWBORN ON VACANT PLOT

A 21-year-old youth was booked for allegedly sexually abusing his minor cousin for around 11 months after she delivered a child in a school bathroom and abandoned the newborn in a vacant plot of land, police said on Sunday. The infant was admitted to a hospital and was stated to be in critical condition, they said. The minor rape survivor was undergoing treatment and her health condition has improved, the principal medical officer of Bundi district hospital, Naresh Pal Singh, said. Within 4-5 hours of recovery of the newborn baby on Saturday morning, the police traced the minor rape survivor, Bundi Superintendent of Police Jai Yadav said.

MEMBERS OF INDIAN DIASPORA PROTEST OUTSIDE PAKISTANI CONSULATE

Several members of the Indian diaspora protested outside the Pakistani Consulate here on the 14th anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks, demanding that perpetrators of the dastardly attack be brought to justice. Raising chants of 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', the people held placards that read 'Mumbai 26/11. We Won't Forgive. We Won't Forget' and '#SanctionPakistan.' They also had a digital van parked outside the Consulate that flashed images of 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed and terrorist Ajmal Kasab as well as images of a burning Taj hotel in Mumbai when terrorists attacked the landmark building.

PT USHA SET TO GET ELECTED AS IOA CHIEF UNOPPOSED

The legendary PT Usha is set to become the first woman president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as she emerged as the lone candidate for the top post for the December 10 elections. The 58-year-old Usha, a multiple Asian Games gold medalists and a fourth-place finisher in the 1984 Olympics 400m hurdles final, filed her nomination papers for the top job on Sunday, along with 14 others from her team for the various posts. The deadline to file nomination papers for the IOA elections ended on Sunday. IOA elections returning officer Umesh Sinha did not receive any nominations on Friday and Saturday but 24 candidates filed nominations for various posts on Sunday.

Will stop YSRCP run: Pawan

○ JSP chief disburses cheques for Rs 1L each to Ippatam demolition victims

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan has made it clear that he will not inform Prime Minister Narendra Modi of his political strategy in facing the YSRCP and challenged how the YSRCP can win all 175 seats in the 2024 elections.

Addressing party workers at JSP State headquarters in Mangalagiri after distributing Rs 1 lakh cheques to those whose houses were allegedly demolished at Ippatam village, Pawan Kalyan announced that he was born in AP and he knows how to face the YSRCP.

Expressing anger over the atrocities against the people by the ruling party, Pawan Kalyan asked whether the YSRCP is a political party or a terror outfit amid thunderous applause from the activists. "The YSRCP has claimed that it will win all 175 Assembly seats. I will see how the YSRCP can win all the seats," he said.

Hitting back at YSRCP leaders comments that Jana Sena is a 'rowdy sena', Pawan Kalyan said that

'I will continue my fight to protect the interests of people even if I am defeated. I felt pain when houses were demolished at Ippatam village in an unjust manner'



Janasena is a 'revolutionary sena'. The YSRCP government was giving him a lot of trouble though he is a prominent person, he said, and expressed concern about the fate of common men in the state.

Pawan Kalyan also objected to naming after welfare schemes 'YSR' and asked why the government did not name Pingali Venkaiah and Gurram Jashuva the schemes.

"I will continue my fight to protect the interests of people even if I am defeated. I felt pain when houses were demolished at Ippatam village in an unjust manner," he said.

Taking a dig at Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, he said that the defacto Chief Minister Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy asked him what he spoke to the Prime Minister. "I will tell what I have spoken to the Prime Minister in the ear of Sajjala if he comes," he ridiculed.

He warned that if the ruling party leaders continue to behave like 'street rowdies', the JSP activists would respond appropriately. "You have demolished houses at Ippatam village illegally but we will demolish the YSRCP legally if voted to power," he warned.

TOUCHING GESTURE

In a touching gesture, Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan touched the feet of an elderly woman on the stage amid ear-splitting cheers from the crowds. While distributing cheques to the victims of Ippatam village, an elderly woman went to the stage. Pawan Kalyan touched her feet and hugged her which attracted the crowd who welcomed his act with thunderous applause.



BJP CHARGE SHEET AGAINST JAGAN GOVT

Senior saffron leaders restive over delay

MARTHI SUBRAHMANYAM
■ VIJAYAWADA

Some senior BJP leaders are unhappy at the delay in preparing a charge sheet to go to the people to expose the failures and corruption of the State government, as advised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the core committee meeting held on November 11 during the PM's AP visit.

Though it has been 20 days since the Prime Minister advised the senior leaders to prepare a charge sheet and go to the people to expose the misdeeds of Jagan Reddy headed the AP government, no action was initiated by the senior leaders.

During the BJP core committee meeting with the Prime Minister, BJP senior leaders D Purandeswari, Satyakumar, CM Ramesh, and MLC Madhav explained to the Prime Minister the YSRCP-led government's failures. They also explained to him the corruption which had taken place during the YSRCP government. After listing the BJP leaders' complaints against the YSRCP government's failures and corrup-



'State affairs co-in-charge Sunil Deodhar and State president Somu Veerajulu and Union Minister Madhukar maintain silence on the issue. The core committee did not even respond when the Prime Minister directed them to go to the people and expose the failures of the State government. It amounts to insulting the Prime Minister.'

tion, the Prime Minister asked them to prepare a charge sheet and go to people exposing the failures and misdeeds. Modi also asked the BJP leaders to procure signatures from the people on the issues.

Though the Prime Minister

directed to prepare a charge sheet and go to people to explain the failures and corruption of the state government, no action has been initiated by state leaders.

KCR to embark on tour of districts



SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

It seems that Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao is getting into election mode. KCR's recent decisions clearly indicate this.

KCR has speeded up his political and official business. He has directed TRS MLAs to go to the people and solve their problems. He has also directed them to campaign extensively about the welfare measures implemented by the government.

At the same time, KCR too has decided to go to the people. He has decided to organise public meetings and wants to go to all districts to address meetings.

Perni calls Pawan a political hypocrite

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former minister Perni Venkatramaiah (Nani) has called Jana Sena president Pawan Kalyan a political hypocrite who kneels before the Telugu Desam Party (TDP).

Addressing the media here on Sunday, the former minister went hammer and tongs against the Jana Sena president mocking his futile exercises of making a mountain out of a molehill at Ippatam for political gains.

Pawan Kalyan has no consistent policy except for revolving around the TDP president and even his fans are wondering why the actor always kneels before Chandrababu, he wondered.

While the Government served notices and removed staircases of some houses at Ippatam as per the law of the land for road widening, Pawan Kalyan forced some of the Ippatam villagers to misrepresent the facts before courts, he said.

Since the curtains are now drawn over his Ippatam drama, Pawan Kalyan should clarify if he is ready to pay the fine of Rs 1 lakh each imposed by the Court on 14 villagers for misrepresenting the facts and cheating the courts of law under his pressure.



Objecting to the Jana Sena president commenting that Amaravati farmers also should have agitated like the Ippatam villagers, he said the actor's statements are irrelevant and reflect only escapism.

He asked why Pawan Kalyan, who raised an unnecessary hue and cry over Ippatam where nothing happened, maintained stony silence when Majids and temples were demolished and crops were burnt at Prasadampadu and Ramavarappadu during the TDP rule.

If Pawan Kalyan has any guts and wits, he should contest all 175 seats individually against the YSRCP in the 2024 elections, he dared the Jana Sena chief. He further said that the actor-led Jana Sena can't win a single seat while Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, who surpassed even his father and former chief minister YSR in implementing welfare programmes for all, will lead the party to sweep all 175 seats.

Now, Amaravati ryots Delhi-bound

○ About 2,000 people to take part in protest at Jantar Mantar

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

On the completion of three years of the Amaravati movement against three capitals, the farmers of Amaravati will take up the Delhi Yatra on December 17.

According to the leaders of Amaravati Parirakshan Samiti (APS) and Rajdhani Rythu Sangham JAC, about 2,000 farmers, including leaders of APS and JAC, will reach the national capital to voice their concerns over Amaravati for three days from December 17 and ensure that



their plight of the Amaravati farmers resounds in the national capital.

Amaravati farmers are getting ready for the protest at Jantar Mantar in

G20 presidency big opportunity for India: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India readies to assume the presidency of the "powerful" G20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the country should focus on global good during its term and asserted that it has solutions to the challenges related to peace, unity, environment and sustainable development.

India will officially assume the G20 presidency from the current chair Indonesia on December 1.

Noting that assuming G20 presidency is a "big opportunity" for India, Modi said the theme that India has given is "One Earth, One



Family, One Future" which shows its commitment to 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (world is one family). "The G20 has a partnership com-

prising two-thirds of the world's population, three-fourths of world trade, and 85 per cent of world GDP. You can imagine India is going to preside over such a big group, such a powerful group, from December 1," he said during his monthly Mann Ki Baat radio programme.

"What a great opportunity has come for India, for every Indian! This becomes even more special because India was awarded this responsibility during 'Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal' (75th year of India's Independence)," the prime minister said.

Covid lockdowns set off protests across China

Protestors shout anti-Xi Jinping slogans

PNS ■ BEIJING

China's rare public protests opposing stringent COVID lockdowns turned political on Sunday with protestors shouting slogans against President Xi Jinping and the ruling Communist Party, as the demonstrations spread to the university campuses in Beijing and Nanjing.

Shanghai, where thousands of protestors converged at the Wulumuqi Road - which is named after Xinjiang provincial capital Urumqi - on Saturday night, witnessed fresh demonstrations on Sunday despite the heavy presence of police.

The protests, which began in the morning, intensified with the participation of hundreds of people by

mid-afternoon, Thomas Hale, Correspondent of the Financial Times, who was present at the protest site, told BBC.

According to videos posted on social media about the protests in Shanghai, people were heard openly shouting slogans such as "Xi Jinping, step down" and "Communist party, step down", the BBC report said.

Hale said the protests are extremely significant as the politics of COVID policies reflected wider political frustrations including the slowing down of the economy.

Elsewhere protesters held blank white banners, while others lit candles and laid flowers for the victims in Urumqi, where 10 people were killed in a fire at a building report-



edly under Covid lockdown on Thursday.

Observers say that the latest political protests appeared to be in continuation of "banner protest" in Beijing last month ahead of the CPC's once-in-a-five-year Congress which elected 69-year-old Xi for an

unprecedented 3rd five-year term.

The anti-lockdown protests appear to be posing a major challenge for Xi, just over a month into his third term in power.

Political protests opposing the CPC and its leadership are very rare in China while the country witness

sporadic agitations over various issues. As such criticism of the party and leadership could result in harsh penalties.

Videos posted on social media showed police arresting several protesters in Shanghai amid protests against their detention from the angry crowd.

Also, students' protests broke out in the prestigious Tsinghua University in Beijing as well as Communication University in Nanjing.

Photos and videos posted online showed students holding vigils for the Urumqi fire victims and launching protests at universities in Beijing and Nanjing.

Students said hundreds of people took part in one such demonstration in Tsinghua University where they held up blank sheets of paper - an act which has become a symbol of

defiance against Chinese censorship. One protester in Shanghai told the BBC that he felt "shocked and a bit excited" to see people out on the streets, calling it the first time he'd seen such large-scale dissent in China.

He said lockdowns made him feel "sad, angry and hopeless", and had left him unable to see his unwell mother, who was undergoing cancer treatment.

A female demonstrator said that police officers when asked how they felt about the protests, and the answer was "the same as you". But, she said, "they wear their uniforms so they're doing their job."

Shanghai, a city of over 25 million, endured weeks of COVID lockdowns in April sparking protests.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Panchami: Nov 27 04:25 PM to Nov 28 01:35 PM
Shashthi: Nov 28 01:35 PM to Nov 29 11:04 AM

Nakshatram: Uttara Ashadha: Nov 27 12:38 PM to Nov 28 10:29 AM
Shravana: Nov 28 10:29 AM to Nov 29 08:38 AM

Rahukalam: 7:54 AM to 9:17 AM
Yamagandam: 10:40 AM to 12:03 PM
Variyam: 02:10 PM to 03:39 PM
Gulika: 1:26 PM to 2:49 PM
Amritakalam: 11:02 PM to 12:31 AM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy
Temp: 31°C
Humidity: 68%
Sunrise: 6:18 AM
Sunset: 5:33 PM

Updated: NOVEMBER 27, 2022 5:00 PM

Monday Mirchi

UNFOUNDED SPECULATIONS,
PREMATURE REJOICING

A purely personal meeting that Giridhar Aramane, 1988 batch IAS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre who took over as the Defence Secretary on November 01, 2022, had with AP Chief Minister Jagannathan Reddy the other day triggered unfounded speculations that he is going to be the next Chief Secretary. Yours truly gathered that Giridhar had met Jagan to invite the Chief Minister for his daughter's marriage. A valid question that rumour-mongers missed is: 'Why would a defence secretary -- reporting directly to the President, the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister - take himself down by accepting CS post?' It is a different matter that bureaucratic circles in AP, carried away by wild rumours, are prematurely rejoicing over 'the impending return of the officer as CS'.

REDDY TAG NO LONGER A LIABILITY

A little bird told us that, as things stand, Special Chief Secretary to Chief Minister K. Jagan Reddy and Special Chief Secretary Poonam Malakondaiah, are among the frontrunners in the race for the CS post. Contrary to reports in a section of the press, in the case of Jagan Reddy, his 'Reddy' tag is no longer an issue for the powers that be. That apart, the grapevine has it that Andhra Pradesh cadre senior IAS officer Y. Sri Lakshmi, another strong contender for the post, has many more years of service left, compared to Jagan Reddy and Poonam Malakondaiah. So, she may have to bide her time. In any case, the chances of others in the race for CS post such as Neerabh Kumar Prasad and R. Karikal Valaven are bleak.

NO SHAVE NOVEMBER FOR JAYESH

Jayesh Ranjan is sporting a salt and pepper look. It was during the Covid pandemic that many of the bureaucrats were seen with beard. Despite normalcy, it has been No-Shave November. During the annual month-long campaign, participants forgo grooming to raise awareness for cancer. Funds that would normally go toward monthly hair maintenance are instead donated to cancer foundations. Jayesh seems to

have taken part in the annual event, going by available pictures from those taken a month ago to the ones taken of late.

SORRY, BUT WHO IS SHARING?

A la continuing leaks to media of videos of 'treatment' being given in jail to AAP Minister Satyendar Jain despite the undertaking given to the court by the ED against any such leaks, opposition and media houses are puzzled as to how certain details of SIT probe are getting leaked in the case relating to poaching of four TRS MLAs. CV Anand, who heads the SIT, has a stock reply to pointed media queries on this: 'sorry'. The local media is disappointed that, barring TRS mouthpieces, nobody gets information from the inside track. Still, they appreciate CV Anand for being genuinely apologetic. No response is something that irks media more than anything else. A seasoned IPS officer, Anand knows how to maintain relations. Some media circles believe that the Chief Minister's Office is releasing everything to TRS mouthpieces. Their grouse against the brains or advisors who came up with these calculated leaks is that the powers that be could rather leak juicy bits from the probe to the entire media, instead of sharing them with a few papers.

SOMETHING IS BETTER THAN NOTHING

Greeting people on the Constitution Day may have been a difficult choice for Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu, considering that he has called for a debate to help rewrite the country's basic statute so as to bring it in sync with the times. On Samvidhan Divas, after celebrations were over, late in the night officials released a press note. The note came around 9:50 pm in WhatsApp and after 10:00 pm via email. The buzz is that officials had no clue when and whether to release such a note. Finally the view that not greeting people could be seen as disrespect to BR Ambedkar, thereby giving grist to the mill of opposition parties, prevailed among debating eggheads and the note was finally released. Well, they say 'something is better than nothing'.

-Yours truly

Will make Indore biggest logistics hub: Rahul Gandhi

PNS ■ INDORE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said Indore will be developed as India's biggest logistics hub along the lines of Chicago if his party forms a government after the 2023 Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections.

He also took potshots at the media saying top politicians of the ruling party, film stars and cricketers hog the limelight whereas farmers and labourers are ignored.

Earlier in the day, the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Gandhi reached Indore on the fifth day of its Madhya Pradesh leg. People from different sections of society including a differently-abled man, Manohar, also joined the foot march and Gandhi was seen pushing his wheelchair to some distance. The Congress leader was also seen riding a motorcycle.

Taking a swipe at the Centre over demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax (GST), Gandhi said both the moves caused the 'biggest loss' to the country. "What the Chinese army could not do, demonetisation and GST have done." If Congress forms a government after the next Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, I will tell Congressmen to develop Indore as India's biggest logistics centre like the US has developed Chicago," he said.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹205
Without Skin	₹215
Broiler at Farm	₹190
EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	462
HYDERABAD	460
VISAKHAPATNAM	460
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.62

KCR to embark...

Continued from page 3

KCR's district tours will start in December. At the official level, KCR is conducting a Collectors' conference on November 28 and has decided to hold a brief Assembly session in December. KCR is also planning to inaugurate government buildings and TRS office buildings during his district tours. He is mixing official and political business during his tours. The CM is very much confident about the victory of the TRS in the next Telangana Assembly elections. The CM's decision on the alleged attempt to poach TRS MLAs has enhanced his image at the national level.

There are allegations from Congress leaders that the TRS and the BJP are colluding with each other. But the CM's decision on the attempted poaching of TRS MLAs has cleared all doubts about this. A senior TRS leader said that if the TRS and the BJP are colluding with each other as alleged by the Congress how can the Special

Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the TS government on the poaching case issue a notice to BL Santosh who is the BJP's top leader. This shows the commitment of KCR to fight the BJP, the TRS leader said.

Moreover, KCR's decision to fight the BJP has helped the TRS to get close to the Left. If the TRS is colluding with the BJP the Left will never support them, commented a TRS leader. Meanwhile, the BJP leadership also has a strong hope of coming to power in Telangana in the next Assembly elections. The comments of a top BJP leader and that of Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday at a conference indicate this. Amit Shah said that the people of Telangana want a change and that he knows the pulse of Telangana. He said that he will tour Telangana until the BJP comes to power in the next elections. Amit Shah also said that the BJP victory in Telangana in the next Assembly elections will be the BJP's gateway to enter south India.

Covid lockdowns...

Continued from page 3

With protests over lockdowns of dozens of apartment buildings intensifying, the government stepped back on Saturday from enforcing lockdowns in Urumqi, the provincial capital of Xinjiang.

During the weekend, Urumqi witnessed a huge demonstration in which many Han Chinese nationals took part along with Uyghur Muslims.

Urumqi authorities on Saturday said the city would lift coronavirus restrictions "in phases" after footage surfaced online showing rare protests against a three-month lockdown, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Sunday.

In Beijing, people from several compounds, under lockdowns for days, also staged protests, leading to officials withdrawing the

curbs. Meanwhile, the National Health Commission on Sunday said 39,501 coronavirus cases, including 35,858 asymptomatic cases, were reported in the country by the end of Saturday as mass COVID tests were carried out across China to identify new clusters of infection.

It is for the fourth consecutive day that China reported an increase in cases, the highest since it recorded a sharp spike in cases in top cities like Shanghai in April. Beijing has been a sharp escalation of cases, which on Sunday climbed to over 4,700, amid growing protests and unease in the city over lockdowns of dozens of apartment buildings. As of Sunday, the city has 9,694 cumulative confirmed cases.

At a meeting on Saturday, Beijing Communist Party secretary Yin Li urged lower-level officials to impose more

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh State Energy Conservation Mission (APSECM) of the State Energy Department will present the State Energy Conservation Awards (SECA) to industries and organisations which made significant performance in energy conservation and energy efficiency for the third consecutive year on the occasion of National Energy Conservation (EC) week that will be celebrated from December 14 to 20.

The APSECM will celebrate National Energy Conservation Week with the utmost participation of the general public and other stakeholders through the conduct of various awareness programs like Short video competitions, workshops



involving SHG women and college students, SECA awards, rallies, etc., in a more effective manner and make the Energy Conservation Week a grand success.

APSECM officials briefed about SECA awards to the special chief secretary of energy K. Vijayanand, the efficient utilization of energy resources is highly important to make them

BJP alleges massive rice scam in AP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Political Feedback Pramukh Lanka Dinakar has alleged that a massive rice scam has taken place in Andhra Pradesh and he has collected information on the scam through the Right to Information Act and RBI reports.

Lanka Dinakar said that there are allegations that rice given to the poor is recycled and exported abroad and there are a large number of lorries illegally transporting rice in almost all districts in Andhra Pradesh that have been caught by the Vigilance department.

"The largest export of rice in the country is from Kakinada. Nobody understands the source from where the rice is coming to the port, under which name the agreements are being made with which country, and under whose eyes the rice is being traded abroad are the questions worth noting. If a thorough investigation is conducted by the CBI, all



those who have misappropriated funds, given by the central government for rice, will come out," he said.

The BJP leader alleged that ration is provided to 1.45 crore BPL families in AP of which 89,24,640 families consisting of 2,67,10,659 individuals have been covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for PM Gareeb Kalyana Yojana and they receiving free rice of 5 Kgs per month for each individual from the Union Government for the last 21 months in addition to the subsidised rice in the ration shops.

In addition to this, the

remaining 56 lakh families, about 1.60 crore people are being given ration by spending the state government funds as per the information from the State Government, which has resulted that the Civil Supply Corporation has already borrowed 31 thousand crores.

According to the latest RBI report, 78.80 lakh people are living below the poverty line in AP per 2011-12 prices and 2.39 crore as per 2004-05 prices. But, Data reveals the facts as per the 2021-22 census, the population of the state is about 5.30 crore people with an average of 3.9 individuals per family, which means that the total number of households is only 1.36 crore only.

But the State government has been showing 4.25 crore beneficiaries of 1.45 crore families eligible for free and subsidised rice from the Central and State Governments. PM Gareeb Kalyana Yojana is being implemented since the Corona lockdown period to date in seven phases AP.

Senior...

Continued from page 3

"State affairs co-in-charge Sunil Deodhar and State President Somu Veeraj and Union Minister Madhukar maintain silence on the issue. The core committee did not even respond when the Prime Minister directed them to go to the people and expose the failures of the State government. It amounts to insulting the Prime Minister," some BJP leaders opined. A BJP senior leader felt that the pro-Jagan Mohan Reddy leaders in the BJP do not want to prepare a charge sheet and go to people to expose the misdeeds of the government. "Some leaders are in favour of the Jagan Reddy-led government which is why they are hesitating to formulate a programme to go to the people," he alleged.

Now, Amaravati...

Continued from page 3

Since then, the farmers of Amaravati's capital and supporters of Amaravati have been protesting. By December 17, 2022, it will be three years since the Chief Minister announced three capitals.

On the other hand, the 'Maha Padayatra' from Amaravati to Arasavalli in Srikakulam came to a halt on October 21. The farmers moved the court for an extension of the date as the 60 days permission was completed on November 12. The court on November 24 adjourned the case for four weeks. By the time the Delhi Yatra is completed, the final orders for 'Maha Padayatra' will be

given.

APS president A. Siva Reddy said that a request has been placed with the South Central Railways for a special train from Vijayawada to New Delhi that will start on December 15 that will carry over 1,600 Amaravati farmers and leaders. He said that the APS leaders will go to Delhi on November 28 to seek permission for the protest at Jantar Mantar on December 17. He said that they will also participate in the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh rally on December 19 and return to Vijayawada. They are inviting all politicians across the nation including Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha MPs.

Amaravati Rythu JAC, Invitation committee mem-

ber Aluri Ugendar said that about 2,000 people including Amaravati farmers of all age groups and leaders will participate in the Delhi Yatra. The protest will be on December 17. He said that all MPs irrespective of political parties will be invited and e-mails will be sent to them. Despite acute weather conditions, the senior citizens are also travelling to Delhi to take part in the three days protest.

Former Tadikonda MLA T. Shrawan Kumar announced that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) will be supporting the farmers for their Delhi Yatra. He also said that other political parties should also stand by the farmers in support of the movement.

G20 presidency big opportunity...

Continued from page 3

The presidency of the G-20 has arrived as a big opportunity for India and it has to make full use of this opportunity and focus on global good and welfare of the world.

"Whether it is peace or unity, sensitivity towards the environment, or sustainable development, India has solutions to challenges related to these," he said.

In his 95th Mann ki Baat broadcast, Modi hailed a "unique gift" from a weaver from Telangana, Hariprasad, who sent the PM a G20 logo woven with his own hands.

The G20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union.

Talking about India's upcoming G20 presidency,

Modi said there should be welfare of all, peace to all, fulfilment to all and well-being for all.

In the coming days, many programmes related to G-20 will be organised in different parts of the country, he noted. "During this period, people from different parts of the world will get a chance to visit your states. I am sure that you will bring the diverse and distinctive colours of your culture to the world and you also have to remember that the people coming to the G-20, even if they come now as delegates, are tourists of the future," he said in his address.

He also urged people especially the youth to join the G20 in one way or the other.

Modi also hailed the development last week of India sending its first such rocket into space that was designed and prepared by the country's private sector.

"The name of this rocket is 'Vikram-S'. As soon as this first

rocket of the indigenous Space Start-up made a historic flight from Sriharikota, the heart of every Indian swelled with pride," the prime minister noted.

He said India is sharing its success in the space sector with its neighbouring countries as well.

Just on Saturday, India launched a satellite, which has been jointly developed by India and Bhutan, he pointed out.

He said India is also moving fast in the field of drones and noted how apples were transported through drones in Kinnair in Himachal Pradesh some days ago.

Talking about advancements in the field of music, Modi said in the last eight years the export of musical instruments from India has increased by three-and-a-half times.

"Our forms of music have not only enriched our culture, but have also left an indelible mark on the music of the world," Modi said.

2022". The last date for submission of the application is December 9.

The application can be submitted through the application form link for the respective categories for Industrial category a) Thermal power Plant: <https://ces.asci.org.in/survey/application-for-industrial-category-thermal-power-plants/>, b) MSME: <https://ces.asci.org.in/survey/application-for-industrial-category-msme/> and c) Textile: <https://ces.asci.org.in/survey/application-for-industrial-category-textile/>

Building category: <https://ces.asci.org.in/survey/application-for-buildings-category/> and Institutions category: <https://ces.asci.org.in/survey/application-for-gram-panchayats/>

Indian Navy organises blood donation camp



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As a part of Navy Day Celebrations 2022, the Indian Navy organised a blood donation camp at Naval Station Bheemunipatnam in collaboration with M/s AS Raja Voluntary Blood Bank, Visakhapatnam.

The camp was inaugurated by Surgeon Rear Admiral R. Ravi, Command Medical Officer, Eastern Naval Command in the presence of Commodore CS Nayar, Station Commander, Naval

Station Bheemunipatnam, and representatives from the Naval Station and the blood bank.

In his inaugural speech, the Admiral conveyed the Indian Navy's aim towards conducting more such camps to provide medical help to the vast population of the country.

As many as 76 volunteers, including ladies, donated blood during the camp.

The Indian Navy expressed gratitude to the doctors and staff members of the AS Raja Voluntary Blood Bank for enabling this noble cause.

Biscuit factory worker sets himself ablaze

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

A worker from Shadnagar was battling for life after setting himself on fire on Sunday, allegedly unable to deal with workplace issues. The victim was identified as Tirumalesh, a resident of Lacchampeta village in Chaudhariguda mandal within the Shadnagar constituency. Tirumalesh is working in a biscuit factory.

His relatives alleged that he resorted to the extreme step, unable to bear the harassment of the factory management. The management of the biscuit factory has allegedly been harassing workers over the last few years.

‘NADU-NEDU’ PHASE II

NTR dist must attain 5th place

Collector asks officials to prepare a plan of action to climb 5th places

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO
■ VIJAYAWADA

The works related to the Andhra Pradesh government's prestigious 'Manabadi Nadu-Nedu' scheme are progressing really slowly in the NTR district. Even though plenty of funds are available in the respective schools' bank accounts, the pace of the work is not satisfactory. Due to its poor performance in the second phase of the 'Manabadi Nadu-Nedu' project, the NTR district now stands at the 10th position in the State.

The State government has assigned supervision of the 'Nadu-Nedu' works to the Panchayat Raj Department. The district administration is taking all measures to speed up the works and has asked the Sachivalayam Engineering Assistants to oversee them.

The State government has sanctioned Rs 241.48 crore for 950 projects under the scheme --including the construction of additional classrooms, compound walls, and other infrastructure facilities -- of which Rs 48.41 crore has been spent so far by the NTR district. With 55.91 per cent marks, it obtained the 10th rank.

The State government launched the second phase works of 'Nadu-Nadu' in March and credited funds directly to the school's bank account. Based on the directives of the School Education Department, the Nadu-Nedu works have been assigned to the school's Parents Monitoring Committees (SMC) under the community contracting system and with immediate crediting of the funds, works have been started.

According to the Samagra



The State government has sanctioned Rs 241.48 crore for 950 projects under the scheme --including the construction of additional classrooms, compound walls, and other infrastructure facilities -- of which Rs 48.41 crore has been spent so far by the NTR district. With 55.91 per cent marks, it obtained the 10th rank.

Shiksha officials, Rs 120.49 crore was sanctioned for 255 projects to construct 578 additional classrooms in 17 mandals. Also, Rs.110 crore was sanctioned to provide infrastructure facilities like drinking water, toilets with running water, major and minor repairs, and electricity works.

Similarly, Rs.10.94 crore was sanctioned for the construction of 166 compound walls. Due to various reasons, the work is too slow, but the funds are available in the schools' bank accounts, sources said. The department has spent Rs.48.41 crore so far, of which Rs.39.37 crore was spent by the

SMCs, and Rs.3.89 crore by the State government for buying cement. The overall expenditure on the total project was just 16 per cent.

Despite the State government providing cement, sand, iron and other building materials, unfortunately, the works are not progressing as per expectations. As of now, the schools raised 9,346 tonnes of cement indent. The department has supplied 7,605.50 tonnes so far and paid Rs.4.05 crore. NTR district is ranked in 16th position in supplying cement.

Meanwhile, the supply of sand is also one of the obstructions. The sources said that

about 250 sand depots were arranged across the district for supplying sand to all schools to avoid delays in the construction process. 12,088.8 metric tonnes of sand indent was raised by the concerned schools, and the department has supplied 1,900 MTs so far, said the source.

Collector unhappy

At a review meeting, NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao expressed unhappiness over the overall progress of the Nadu-Nedu works in the district. The Collector was angered by the lackadaisical attitude of the officials.

He further directed all mandal-level officers to monitor the works and expedite them. The district's aim is to reach fifth place in the State. He said all officials should inspect school building works, identify lapses, if any, and chalk out a plan of action to overcome them. Also, they may utilise the Sachivalayam staff's services to avoid delays in the supply of sand, cement, and other building materials.

49 red sanders logs seized; 16 held

PNS ■ KADAPA

The police seized 49 red sanders logs weighing over 1 tonne and arrested 16 red sanders smugglers at B Mattam village in Lankamalla mandal in YSR district.

SP KKN Anburajan told the media on Sunday that on a tip-off a police team conducted a raid in the Lankamalla forest area and seized 49 red sander logs which were kept ready for transportation.

The police also arrested 16 red sander smugglers and seized Eicher Lorry, two Cars, eight mobile phones, and three axes.

Most of the arrested smugglers belonged to Tamil Nadu state.

The SP appreciated forest zone DSP Chenchu Babu, SDOP Vanshidhar Goud, taskforce CIs Nagabhusana, Nagendra Kumar, Mohan Reddy, Mudanur, RSI Pothuraju, and other officials for arresting the smugglers and seizing the logs.



POLICE RAID GAMBLING DEN

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

On a tip-off, Hanuman Junction police conducted checks and nabbed the organizer and people involved in gambling activity on Sunday. During the checks, Bapulapadu Town TDP Secretary Garlapati Rajeswara Rao was caught organizing a huge gambling activity on his birthday in Veleru of Bapulapadu mandal in the district. Among the arrested were, Bapulapadu Town TDP president Atturi Srinivasa Rao, Garlapati Rajeswara Rao, who is the main follower of MLC Bachula Arjunudu, and eight others were detained by the police. 7 bikes, 9 mobiles, 112 coins and cash were seized from the accused.

Botsa hails V/W Sectt staff

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Education Minister Botsa Satyanarayana has said that the employees of Village/Ward secretariats are the eyes and ears of the YSRC government. He praised the employees of the village secretariats for working with commitment and honesty.

The Minister spoke at the Avirbhava Sabha of the Village/Ward Secretariat Employees' Association held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram here on Sunday.

On the occasion, Botsa said that the Village/Ward Secretariat employees are working with dedication without corruption.

The Minister recalled that the NITI Aayog team also appreciated the Village/Ward Secretariat system in Andhra Pradesh. The Centre is planning to set up RBK centres across the country. He said that the government will support the employees of the Secretariat in all respects.

‘Rice millers asked to give bank guarantee’

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Joint Collector S Nupur Ajay Kumar has made it clear that all millers should give bank guarantee by December 1 without fail, as the Kharif paddy procurement is progressing at a brisk pace. As of now, only 17 millers have submitted bank guarantees so far and the remaining millers should give bank guarantees as soon as possible, he said.

With a view to speeding up paddy procurement in the district, JC Nupur conducted a meeting with all rice millers at the video conference hall in Vijayawada on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion,



she said that paddy procurement had been progressing at a brisk pace and it would be further expedited in the coming days. So, the millers should be ready to take paddy and provide gunny bags to respective contractors, she said. "If any miller is found negligent in providing gunny bags, action will be taken," she warned.

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She further said the custodian officers who were posted at the rice mills should unload paddy without delay. The milling process will start on November 28, she said. Transport charges would be paid to the farmers who transport the paddy from the paddy procurement centres to the rice mills. She said millers

should cooperate with the government for purchasing paddy in the district.

Deputy Transport Commissioner Purendra, Civil Supplies Department District Manager Sivarama Murthy, DSO P Komali Padma, and Rice Millers Association district president Srinivas attended the meeting.

Revive ‘Chandranna Bheema’ for fishermen: Anagani

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and MLA Anagani Satyaprasad on Sunday appealed to Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, to immediately revive the 'Chandranna Bheema' (insurance) scheme for fishermen as they are facing untold hardships as they are not getting any assistance from the Government.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, the MLA said that he wants to bring the problems being faced by the fishermen community in the State for the past three years as they are not getting any welfare scheme benefits or financial assistance from the government.

Anagani Satyaprasad, in the letter, made a request to the Chief Minister, who always talks about 'Naadu Nedu' to think at least once as to how the fishermen, who progressed well during the TDP, are suffering now.



"How long you will cheat the fishermen by only pressing the button and just uttering sweet words in the public meetings," the MLA asked the Chief Minister. "Is it not a fact that the Chief Minister hit the fishermen below their belt with the GO 217 and why the ponds, being managed by the fishermen, were handed over to the contractors?" he said.

By hiking the petrol, diesel and power charges the fishermen are literally being subjected to looting, the MLA said, adding that other benefits like supplying boats to them on subsidy, nets and engines too are discontinued thus hitting them financially. Terming this as a vengeful attitude adopted towards the fishermen community, Anagani Satyaprasad demanded that the schemes implemented during Chandranbaba regime be revived forthwith to save the community from the current financial crisis.

Krishna & NTR district soft tennis panels elected

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As per the newly constituted districts, the Soft Tennis Association has also constituted two committees for both the Krishna and NTR districts. The combined Krishna District Soft Tennis Association general body meeting was held at the Viswa Bharathi Vidyanyiketan at Patama in Vijayawada on Sunday.

Later, two committees were unanimously elected and the new committees' term will be continued up to 2026.

Bezawada Bar Association Sports Cell secretary K Stalin acted as an election officer.

Also, the AP Soft Tennis Association nominated its vice president B Gangadhara Rao as an observer. NTR District Sports Authority nominated

boxing coach P Ishaq as NTR district observer, and Krishna DSA nominated Basketball coach P Santhosh as an observer for the Krishna district.

Krishna District Committee: V Srinu Babu (President), Y Damodar Reddy, D Vinay Kumar (Vice President), D Dilip Kumar (General Secretary), D Naveen Kumar, Md Zahiruddin (Joint Secretary), K Ravi Kumar (Treasurer), V Prasanna Kumar, V Bhargani (executive members)

NTR District Committee: M Chanti Babu (President), Abdul Karim, B Uday Kumar (Vice President), K Dilip Prasanna Babu (General Secretary), M Divya Jyothi, D Satyanarayana (Joint Secretary), N Naga Babu (Treasurer), K Narasimha Rao, S Satyanarayana (executive members).

TTD diaries and calendars on sale

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

The popular and prestigious TTD calendars and diaries for the year 2023 are available at all the Kalyana Mandapams, book stalls, Information Centres run-by TTD while online booking and delivery by India Post overseas as well have also been enabled.

The TTD calendars and diaries are available in Tirumala at the Laddu counters, in front of Srivari temple, at book stalls at Lepakshi and inside Annadaprasadam Complex. While in Tirupati, near Sri Govindarajaswami temple, Railway station, Srinivasam, Vishnu Nivasam, book stall at Tiruchanoor.

Besides, they are also avail-



able in TTD information centres at Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, New Delhi, and Mumbai. The calendars and diaries are also available in Sri Kodandarama Swamy temple in Vontimitta,

Devuni Kadapa temple, apart from the TTD Kalyana Mandapams located in Nellore, Rajahmundry, Kakinada, Nandyal, Hanumakonda also.

The price list is, for 12 Sheet calendar Rs 130, Deluxe

diary Rs 150, Normal diary Rs 120, Tabletop calendar Rs 75, Srivari Big calendar Rs 20, Calendar of Sri Padmavati Rs 20, and Srivari and Sri Padmavati calendar Rs 15, Telugu Panchangam Rs 30.

Online booking available

The online booking of TTD diaries and calendars has been enabled since 2017 for the benefit of devotees. Now, devotees could gift pack and dispatch these products to friends and relatives. Devotees could book their diaries online through the www.tirupatibalaji.ap.gov.in portal by clicking on the 'publications' button and paying with a debit card, credit card, etc.

AP NETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Krishna boys and girls emerge champs

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Host Krishna district junior boys and girls teams lifted the 8th Andhra Pradesh Junior (Under-19) Netball Championship held at the Mary Stella College in Vijayawada. Both boys' and girls' team players performed well and bagged first place respectively.

The two-day 8th AP Junior Inter-District Netball Championship finished on Sunday.

In the girls' section finals, the Krishna team won against its opponent East Godavari by 9-7 goals, while in the boys' section finals, the Krishna district team beat East Godavari by 15-12

goals. However, Visakhapatnam and Kadapa teams secured third place in girls' and boys' respectively.

Later, the prize distribution function was held at Stella College and the college principal Dr Jasinthra Quadras, RALC regional manager D Veerababu, cricket coach Kumara Swamy and others presented trophies to the winners, runners, and third-place teams.

Andhra Pradesh Netball Association secretary B Sivaram, NTR district president M Seshagiri Rao, secretary Abhishek, and NTR district secretary B Himabindu, Krishna, and others were present.



Jogi Ramesh exhorts Gouda community to unite

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Housing Jogi Ramesh has said that members of the Gouda community should unite to strengthen their financial status and help those who are financially weak. The State-level association of the community is taking steps for uniting the members, he said.

Minister Jogi Ramesh took part in the Gouda community's Karthika Masam Vana Samaradhana programme organised by the Kotturu Tadepalli Gouda Sanghan at the K Tadepalli mango garden near Vijayawada on Sunday.



Kotturu Tadepalli Sarpanch Vuyyuru Gopala Rao intro-

duced several people's representatives and local leaders to

the minister.

Speaking on the occasion,

Minister Ramesh said that he would try to provide financial assistance to the toddy tappers in the State. "For the sake of the toddy tappers, the State government has implemented a new policy and also enhanced the compensation from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.10 lakh in case of death and also provides alternative employment," he added.

Former MP and TDP Krishna district president Konakalla Narayana Rao said that people's representatives should work for the development of the community and try to sanction welfare schemes to eligible persons. Gouda people

should unite irrespective of politics, help each other and take steps to develop their families, he said.

Andhra Pradesh Gouda Corporation Chairman Madu Sivaramakrishna, Nuzvid DSP E Ashok Kumar Goud, TDP State secretary Konakalla Jagannadham (Bullaiah), Gannavaram MPP Anagani Ravi, G Konduru MPP Vemulakonda Tirupatamma, EVE chairman Eda Vedadri, community representatives Donthagani Venkateswara Rao, Vemulakonda Nagaraju, D Sivaramakrishna, Parikala Srinivas and others were present.

Peak performance at workplace key to success

Modern corporate workplace is in a state of flux. The success of any organisation relies heavily on its employees' performance. Employees are the driving force to take companies to the zenith of success. Quality of work produced is the key indicator of performance of any organisation. There has been tremendous change in corporate job market due to technological revolution lead to mismatch of employees' abilities to execute tasks. Hence, maximising workforce performance can help organisations to accomplish their goals. To encounter challenges, organisations need to enhance competency of employees to sustain in the fierce market place. Since employees' performance directly impact firm's Return

on Investment (ROI) and hence it is essential to identify the root cause of their underperformance, and constantly take suitable measures to augment their efficacy. How efficiently the workers fulfil their job roles, accomplish tasks, and collaborate with peers is one of the ways of evaluation of employees' performance. Employees cannot achieve peak performance unless they are communicated clearly about management expectations no matter how skilled and competent they are. Exploring the ways to learn new skills is the initial step towards achieving peak performance. The corporate world is very competitive so that workforce needs to take advantage of every opportunity that can give an edge. Employees have to upgrade

Employees must have a positive attitude towards enhancing their skills and ready to keep abreast changes. According to a recent Career Builder survey, 45% of respondents reported that a gap in skills caused a loss in overall productivity. Undoubtedly, employees' performance and effective delivery of tasks is critical for an organisation's growth and success. Most employees have the power to achieve peak performance but due to lack of encouragement from higher-ups and peers, they underutilise their internal energy

their talents continuously to give impressive performance and meet the expectations of management.

Maintaining a competitive edge in the global marketplace demands that the employees attain peak performance even in acute challenges and work pressure. Employees should handle work stress, negative judgments from others, and sustain focus even in dire sit-

uation. They should keep in mind work stress drains energy and lessen focus.

Exceptional employees are not just proactive, they can forecast crises, embrace change, and have a deaf ear to naysayers around them. Employees must have a positive attitude towards enhancing their skills and ready to keep abreast changes.

According to a recent



SRINIVAS VISSAPRAGADA

Career Builder survey, 45% of respondents reported that a gap in skills caused a loss in overall productivity. Undoubtedly, employees' performance and effective delivery of tasks is critical for an organisation's growth and suc-

cess. Most employees have the power to achieve peak performance but due to lack of encouragement from higher-ups and peers, they underutilise their internal energy. In order to embrace change and predict uncertainty, employees need a certain level of future-mindedness to stay agile, ability to bounce back from setbacks. If organisations want to improve employee performance, they need to set clear goals to employees and develop metrics to measure their progress. People do their best when they are engaged and motivated.

Collaborative learning is also a great way to help boost employee performance. Cohesiveness among employees can solve conflicts that may lead to smooth execution of projects. Sharing of information

among workforce will also expand their knowledge and bring clarity in their minds and allow them to think out of the box. When it comes to improving employee potential, facilitating training will always give better results. But it's not enough to bring them to a seminar or workshop. To make the most out of training endeavour, make training more creative, engaging, and interactive. Employees have their own strengths, setbacks, goals, and aspirations.

Hence, customised training and development programmes can help improve performance and also create potential opportunities for professional development. Human Resources are the most expensive assets, and therefore, organizations must utilize their workforce effi-

ciently and effectively. One of the best practices is to regularly monitor their performance and offer necessary training to enhance competence employees. Assess the strengths of employee and allot tasks that fit for their abilities. Enhanced employee performance benefits organisation in the long run. It lets firms maintain a competitive edge while allowing employees to grow and excel on the professional front. Thus, it's imperative to formulate an effective performance management strategy.

Achieving peak performance has to be given paramount importance for living an extraordinary life.

(The writer is Assistant Professor Department of Commerce PB Siddhartha College of Arts & Science, Vijayawada)

'Democracy under threat in AP'

PNS ■ ELURU

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) OBC cell national president and MP K Lakshman has alleged that democracy is being destroyed in Andhra Pradesh and the ruling YSRCP leaders are indulging in massive corruption.

Addressing a press conference, flanked by State president Somu Veeraj, State general secretaries Vetukuri Suryanarayana Raju and Bitra Satyanarayana, here on Sunday, K Lakshman found fault with the Jagan Reddy headed AP government for its anti-BC policies.

"Jagan Reddy headed government is not following democratic values. The ruling party leaders are working only to earn money through corrupt practices. The AP government has owned the Central government-sponsored welfare schemes," he alleged.

Appreciating the Central government, Lakshman said that the world is looking to Modi's leadership as he is taking many efficient steps to make a strong India and make a robust economy.

The Central government took up massive development programmes and infrastructure development in Andhra Pradesh by spending Rs 10,000 crore, he said.



"The Central projects have come to a halt in AP since the Jagan Reddy-headed state government has failed to allocate lands and provide needed infrastructure. The AP government has also failed to earmark adequate funds as its share for various projects being constructed by the Central government in AP," Lakshman criticised.

BJP is providing financial assistance to 70 lakh farmers in the state. Under the Kisan Samman Fund, the BJP-led Centre had deposited cash directly into the accounts of farmers, he claimed, adding that the BJP

is committed to the welfare of the poor. Regional parties in the country are doing politics for family interests, he lashed out.

The Centre has released a Rs 6,138 crore grant to AP since 2021. Due to the wrong policies and inefficiencies of the Jagan Reddy-headed state government, the unemployed are migrating to other places seeking jobs. The Centre has allocated 25 lakh houses to Andhra Pradesh but the state government could construct only six lakh houses," he pointed out. State executive member Tapana Chowdary was among those who were present.

Later, addressing an OBC meeting held in the Indoor stadium here on Sunday, K Lakshman deplored that grave injustice is being meted out to the underprivileged sections in the two Telugu states.

He slammed that the BCs are being used as vote banks by the ruling parties. The YSRCP government had come to power with the support of the OBCs but after coming to power the OBCs were ignored. In Telangana, K Chandrasekhar Rao assured making a Dalit leader as Chief Minister of the state but he betrayed them later.

He cited that Narendra Modi who belongs to OBC has risen to the Prime Minister's post by pursuing ideals and discipline. The Centre is spending thousands of crores of rupees for the welfare of BCs and OBCs, he claimed. The BJP has made Dwoupadi Murmu who belongs to the tribal community the president of India, he said. State president Somu Veeraj, state general secretaries Vetukuri Suryanarayana Raju, Bitra Shivannarayana, state executive members Tapana Chowdary, district president Kurella Jyothi Krishna, former MLA Chinnam Ramakotiah and Janasena Eluru in-charge Appala Naidu were among those who were present.

40 Ayyappa devotees have lucky escape

PNS ■ ONGOLE

As many as 40 Swamy Ayyappa devotees had a miraculous escape when the private bus in which they were going to Sabarimala rammed a stationary lorry on the outskirts here on Sunday.

Police said that about 40 Swamy Ayyappa devotees belonging to DL Puram in Nakkapalli mandal in Anakapalli district were going to the hill shrine Sabarimala in a private bus.

The ill-fated bus rammed a stationary lorry from the rear end.

Some of the devotees suffered injuries but all were out of danger.

The family members of the devotees told the media that they had gotten information that all were safe.



The ill-fated bus rammed a stationary lorry from the rear end. Some of the devotees suffered injuries but all are out of danger.

130 kg ganja seized, two held

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The police seized 130 kg of ganja while being transported in an SUV at Dumbriguda village in Alluri Sitarama Raju district and arrested two persons.

Paderu SEB DSP DVG Raju told the media that on a tip-off a police team conduct-

ed a checking of vehicles. They found 130 KGs of ganja was being transported in a specially made chamber on the roof of the vehicle. The police arrested Pangi Maheshwar belonging to Odisha state and K Ramesh belonging to ASR district and seized the ganja, the vehicle, and two mobile phones.



Special drive conducted against ganja

PNS ■ ONGOLE

On the directions of Superintendent of Police Malika Garg, the district police conducted a special drive to prevent the sale and consumption of ganja in the district on Sunday.

The police in all the police

station limits conducted checking of vehicles, shops, kiosks, provisional stores, and Kirana shops in order to check the sale of cannabis.

The police are also conducting checks on the houses of old criminals. During the raids, one ganja case was registered in One Town police station

limits here.

The SP warned of stringent action if ganja is sold and consumed. The conducting of checking would be continued in the district. She directed the officials to keep a strict vigil on the bootleggers. She asked people to inform 91211 02266 of the sale of ganja.



NCC Raising Day celebrated

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

National Cadet Corps (NCC) 16th Andhra Battalion celebrated the 75th Raising Day at the Police Training Centre at Tapasipudi in Machilipatnam on Sunday. As part of the celebrations, the cadets participated in a blood donation camp.

Speaking on the occasion, 16th Battalion Commanding officer Lieutenant Karnal Sansar Singh said that NCC cadets were bestowing valuable services to instill patriotism and discipline among the people. He said the NCC was the largest youth organisation in the world. It celebrates Raising



Day on November 27. Red Cross district secretary B SankarNath, Medical Officer

Hanumanthayya and Pattabhi Red Cross blood bank personnel were present.

Stern action against derogatory comments of Baba sought

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The National Federation of Indian Women (NSIW), along with other women's groups, staged a protest against Baba Ram Dev's comments insulting women and garlanded his photo with sandals.

NSIW Secretary Penmetsa Durgabhavani said that monks like Baba Ramdev occupying top places with government support were deceiving people in the counterfeit trade market of consumer goods and further

in the name of religion. She objected to the comments of Baba Ram Dev against women and demanded the government arrest Ram Dev Baba and further National Women Commission to initiate stern action against him for his objectionable comments.

All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) State Vice President Katragadda Swaruparani said that in the past Dera Baba and Nityananda Baba used to treat women under the guise of

devotion. She deplored that now Ram Dev Babu insulted women through his derogatory comments

She said that it is bad for government leaders to bow down at Baba's feet. She warned that if the government fails to take action against Ram Dev Baba, the women's groups will unite and file cases in police stations in all districts.

Women leaders of various women's organisations and associations participated in the protest.

CBI inquiry sought into 'Sankalpa Siddhi' scam

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

MLC and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Gannavaram constituency in-charge Batchula Arjunudu has demanded a CBI inquiry into the recent 'Sankalpa Siddhi' scam, in which public money to the tune of Rs 1,100 crore was looted. "The ruling YSRCP leaders are distributing the looted money to people for getting votes in coming elections," he alleged.

A training camp was organised for conducting 'Idemi Kharmara Rastraniki' at the TDP office at Gannavaram on Sunday. Gannavaram,

Unguturu, Bapulapadu and Vijayawada Rural mandal presidents, secretaries, unit in-charge leaders and cluster in-charge leaders attended the camp.

Speaking on the occasion, MLC Arjunudu said that YSRCP leaders had understood that their political career was finished because of the government's anti-people policies. "In this situation, the TDP should invite the attention of the public to the failures of the government and extensively organise 'Idemi Kharmara Rastraniki', which would begin in the constituency on Dec 1," he said.

APCC leader demands rollback of transfer of 2 AP HC judges

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Senior APCC leader Bodapati Babu Rao has demanded that the 'arbitrary transfer' of two Judges of Andhra Pradesh High Court, namely, Justice Battu Devanand and Justice D.Ramesh be reversed forthwith.

In a press release here on Sunday, Babu Rao said both the judges did not even complete two years in AP High Court. This is an arbitrary and meaningless transfer in the name of administrative reason, he observed.

The senior Congress leader said Justice Battu Devanand is the only Dalit Judge serving in AP High Court. With his untimely transfer, AP High Court is left without Dalit representation.

Babu Rao also demanded the immediate filling of all 37 judges vacancies in the AP



High Court. The Supreme Court collegium should take steps to fill the vacancies first in AP High Court. The SC collegium should work for weaker section representation of judges in the AP High Court. The Supreme Court doesn't have a policy in place, so far, for the transfer of HC judges. It should formulate a policy for the transfer of Judges first and then only transfers should take place. Till such time the Supreme Court collegium should put on hold all transfers of High Court Judges.

The senior APCC leader said, "We the Dalit community fraternity opine that the present arbitrary transfer of High Court judges is politically motivated. The transfers of the High Court judges in question should be stopped immediately," he said.

Blood donation marks NCC Day celebrations

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

On the successful completion of 74 years of establishment of NCC in India and on the 75th NCC Day on Sunday, the 17th Andhra Battalion of National Cadet Corps (NCC) celebrated the day with the donation of blood to save the lives of fellow citizens.

The NCC cadets from Andhra Loyola College, Syed Appalaswamy College, KBN College, and Siddhartha Mahila College donated 105 units of blood.

The Blood Collection Camp was conducted by Red Cross Blood Centre, Vijayawada, and the Blood Centre of GGH, Vijayawada on the Andhra Loyola College premises.

The camp was inaugurated by the Commanding Officer of NCC Lt. Colonel Rakesh. He highlighted the services of NCC in the interest and protection of citizens and in their training.

BVS Kumar, State Co-ordinator of Red Cross Blood Centers in Andhra Pradesh



thanked NCC cadets for their kind gesture in coming forward to save the lives in emergencies.

Bondada Raghavendra Rao, Chairman of Bondada Group of Companies has participated in

the camp and recollecting his association with NCC in college days has donated blood today.

As a token of appreciation, Red Cross Blood Centre presented a memento to Lt. Col.

Rakesh and assured that each voluntary blood donor will be issued a Commendation Certificate by the Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

Lt Col Surendran,

Administration Officer of the 17th Battalion, V Seshagiri Rao, Vice Chairman of IRCSS, Krishna district, Dr. Ranjitha, Blood Bank Medical Officer of GGH, Vijayawada, participated.

Auspicious muhurat for weddings to begin from Dec 4

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The inauspicious period for weddings, which continued for over three months, will end by the month end. Celebration of marriages that are put on hold during the period will begin from the first week of December. In fact, there are five auspicious muhurs in December. As the auspicious period is drawing nearer, the people have booked function halls, community halls and marriage halls. In all, thousands of marriages are going to take place in December. The inauspicious period that commenced on September 22 this year continued till Nov 27. As a result, people did not celebrate housewarming celebrations and marriages during the period. According to ancient religious texts, the auspicious dates in Dec 4, 8, 14, 17 and 18. Confirming this, noted vedic scholar Chirravuri Ramakrishna said that these five days are excellent.

INDIA CORNER

Probe ordered after 82-year-old man dies during police raid at his house

An investigation was ordered after an 82-year-old man allegedly died of cardiac arrest on Sunday when police raided his house in the dead of the night in search of his son, an accused in a cattle smuggling case, in Jharkhand's Khunti district, an officer said. Residents of Rodo village in Torpa police station area alleged that the man died after police pushed him while entering the house. Khunti's Superintendent of Police (SP) Aman Kumar said that a magistrate-level investigation will be conducted into the case. A special police team reached the village, around 60 km from capital Ranchi, around 1 am to arrest one Izhar Ahmed alias Kallu, an accused in a cattle smuggling case. As the search was underway, Kallu's father Md Nizamuddin suddenly fell on the floor and died. Police said he died of cardiac arrest, while villagers alleged that he died after police pushed him. Local sources said that the irate villagers gheraoed the police personnel who were conducting the raid.



Three, including RAC constable shot dead in Rajasthan

Three brothers including a police constable were shot dead when their neighbour along with some others allegedly opened fire at them in their house in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district, police said on Sunday. The incident occurred in Sikrora village and the police was informed early Sunday. Constable Gajendra Singh, his two brothers Samandar Singh and Ishwar Singh were killed while Gajendra's wife, son and his daughter in law were injured and are being treated at the SMS hospital in Jaipur, police said. Gajendra Singh was a constable posted in Rajasthan Armed Constabulary (RAC). SHO Kumher Himanshu Singh said that Gajendra Singh's son Tenpal had a verbal spat with his neighbour Lakkan a few days back and Tenpal had slapped Lakkan too. The elderly people in the village had intervened and the issue was resolved at that time but Lakkan wanted revenge, the SHO said. He said that Lakkan along with 8-10 others barged into the house of Gajendra late last night and started shouting.



More than 40 high-end mobile phones stolen during concert at BKC

More than 40 high-end mobile phones were stolen by unidentified persons during a concert at the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) here, police said on Sunday. Many concert-goers approached the police with complaints that their mobile phones were misplaced or stolen during the concert that took place at MMRDA ground on Saturday night, an official from BKC police said. Hundreds of people had attended the concert after booking their tickets online and the venue was packed, he said. The police have registered four to five FIRs under section 379 (punishment for theft) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) after more than 40 high-end mobile phones were stolen or misplaced at the venue, the official said. The police were examining the CCTV footage from the area to identify and apprehend the accused, he added.



Cong, allied parties view terrorism as shortcut to success: PM Modi

PNS ■ KHEDA

Remembering the 26/11 Mumbai terror strike, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said Gujarat and the country need to be "alert" about Congress and like-minded parties which keep mum on "big terrorist attacks" to not offend their vote bank. Addressing a rally in Kheda district in Gujarat where Assembly elections are scheduled for December 1 and 5, the prime minister said Congress and many like-minded parties view terrorism as a shortcut to achieving success. "Terrorism is not over yet and the politics of the Congress has not also changed. The fear of terrorism will remain till appeasement politics continues. 'Congress views terrorism from the prism of vote bank,

Not only Congress but many like-minded parties have come up now who view terrorism as a shortcut to achieve success and this small party's hunger for power is even bigger," he said without naming the "small party". The prime minister said the mouths of these parties remain "locked when big terrorist attacks take place so that their vote bank is not offended. They even go to courts from the back door to save terrorists". "When Batla House encounter took place, a Congress leader cried for terrorists. Gujarat and the country should remain alert from such parties," he added. The 2008 encounter near Delhi resulted in the deaths of two terrorists hiding in a flat in the Batla House area in Okhla



and a police officer. "Your one vote in 2014 (Lok Sabha elections) strengthened the fight against terrorism. Now forget about terror attacks in our cities, they (India's enemies) think 100 times before even conducting such attacks on our borders," the PM said, adding they know India will hit by entering their homes ("ghar main ghus ke marega"). In an apparent reference to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the PM said Congress and like-minded parties had raised doubts about surgical strikes and the ability of our armed forces. "Those countries which took terrorism lightly

are in clutches of terrorism. Terrorism is not over yet. The politics of the Congress party has also not changed, while small parties are also indulging in vote bank politics," he said. The PM said, "till the vote bank politics remains the fear of a resurgence of terrorism is also real". "We have to save Gujarat from those playing the dirty game of terrorism. This is a long fight and we need your support," Modi said. He said the 2008 Mumbai terror attack was the "epitome of terrorist attacks in the country". "I pray for the departed souls," the PM said, a day after tributes were paid to commemorate the 14th anniversary of the 26/11 strike unleashed by 10 Pakistani terrorists in which 166 people were killed and several injured.

India eyes smaller N reactors for clean energy transition: Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is taking steps for the development of small modular Reactors with up to 300 MW capacity to fulfil its commitment to transitioning towards clean energy, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said Sunday. At a workshop on Small Modular Reactors (SMR) organized by NITI Aayog and the Department of Atomic Energy, he said the participation of the private sector and start-ups needs to be explored in the development of this critical technology within India. He emphasised that technology sharing and availability of funding are the two crucial links for ensuring the commercial availability of SMR technology. Singh said the exploration of new clean energy options is in tune with



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's roadmap for clean energy transition through bold climate commitments which are reflected in the updated Nationally Determined Contributions. SMRs with up to 300 MW capacity, by nature, are flexible in design and require a smaller footprint, Singh said, adding that being mobile and agile technology, SMRs can be factory-built, unlike the conventional nuclear reactors that are built on-site. SMR is a promising technology in industrial de-carbonization, especially where there is a requirement for a reliable and continuous supply of power, the minister added.

3 children crushed to death by train in Punjab's Rupnagar

PNS ■ RUPNAGAR (PUNJAB)

Three children were crushed to death by a passenger train near Sri Kiratpur Sahib here on Sunday, police said on Sunday. The incident took place when four children of migrant labourers were playing near the railway track close to the bridge over Sutlej river, they said. The fourth child was injured in the incident and was admitted to a hospital, said police. The boys were in the age group of 7 to 11 years, police added.



21 YEARS AFTER DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE

Bhuj yearns for planned industrialisation

PNS ■ BHUJ (GUJ)

Two decades after a devastating earthquake struck Bhuj in Gujarat, the Kutch district might have witnessed unprecedented industrial growth, but environmentalists and town veterans are apprehensive about whether Bhuj has learnt its lessons and prepared to face such a natural disaster. In January 2001, a massive earthquake struck the town of Bhuj and Kutch district, killing thousands of people, destroying thousands of homes, and rendering lakhs of people homeless. Post-earthquake, the Gujarat government announced a major reconstruction and rehabilita-

tion policy, under which the district witnessed unprecedented industrial growth in the last two decades. Scientists and environmentalists feel that with Kutch being one of the active seismic zones of the country, the administration should be extra careful while carrying out developmental activities such as industrialisation and town planning. As the election approaches, the earthquake survivors and the scientists urge political parties to take note of warning signs before it's too late. The Bhuj assembly constituency will go to poll on December 1, the first phase of the Gujarat elections. Professor M G Thakkar, the

head of the Earth and Environmental Science department at KSKV Kachchh University, said Kutch has several "active fault lines", with one passing through the Bhuj town itself. "There are several research papers where we have pointed out these fault lines. After 2010, the ministry of sciences allotted us various projects to map those fault lines. But the thing is, we are not considering this scientific outcome during town planning," Thakkar said. He wondered whether, even after two decades, the district is well prepared to face a disaster of the 2001 Bhuj earthquake magnitude in future.

Avoid antibiotics for low-grade fever: ICMR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research has issued guidelines warning against the use of antibiotics for conditions such as low-grade fever and viral bronchitis while advising doctors to follow a timeline while prescribing them. The ICMR guidelines stated that antibiotics should be prescribed for a duration of five days for skin and soft tissue infections, five days in case of community-acquired pneumonia and eight days for hospital-acquired pneumonia. "A clinical diagnosis most often helps us predict causative pathogens fitting into a clinical syndrome which would tailor the correct antibiotic rather than blindly relying on fever, procalcitonin levels, WBC counts, cultures or radiology to make a diagnosis of infection," the guidelines said.

It stated limiting empiric antibiotic therapy to seriously ill patients. Generally, empiric antibiotic therapy is only recommended for a select group of patients suffering from severe sepsis and septic shock, community-acquired pneumonia, ventilator-associated pneumonia and necrotizing fasciitis. Hence, it is important to start smart and then focus, i.e., evaluate if empiric therapy can be justified or de-escalated and then make a plan with regard to the duration of therapy, the guidelines said. An ICMR survey conducted between January 1 and December 31, 2021 had suggested that a big chunk of patients in India may no longer benefit from the use of carbapenem, a powerful antibiotic administered mainly in ICU settings for the treatment of pneumonia and septicemia,



etc., as they have developed anti-microbial resistance to it. The analysis of the data pointed towards a sustained increase in drug-resistant pathogens, resulting in difficulty to treat certain infections with the available medicines. Resistance to Imipenem, which is used to treat infections caused by E coli bacteria, increased from 14 per cent in 2016 to 36 per cent in 2021. The trend of decreasing susceptibility of bacteria to specific antibiotics was also observed with Klebsiella pneumoniae as it registered a drop from 65

per cent in 2016 to 45 per cent in 2020 and was at 43 per cent in 2021. The susceptibility term here was used to describe the vulnerability of the bacteria to the antibiotic. Carbapenem resistance isolates of E coli and K pneumoniae are also resistant to other antimicrobials, making it very challenging to treat carbapenem-resistant infections. The resistance to broad-spectrum antibiotic carbapenem in respect to infections caused by Acinetobacter baumannii bacteria was recorded in 87.5 per cent of the patients who were part of the study in 2021, limiting the availability of treatment options, the ICMR report said. According to HAI Surveillance data included in this report, Acinetobacter causes almost 70 per cent of the urinary tract infections in critically sick (ICU) patients.

Railways sees dip in senior citizen travellers, pandemic key reason

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Railways has seen an almost 24 per cent dip in the number of senior citizens travelling by trains in 2021-22 as compared to 2019-2020, according to an RTI query. Officials said this dip can be attributed to the second wave of COVID-19, when fewer people were travelling by trains. This was also the time the Railways withdrew concessions for senior citizens, they said. In 2018-2019, 7.1 crore senior citizens travelled by



trains, while in 2019-20, the number rose to 7.2 crore. In the pandemic-hit 2020-21, only around 1.9 crore citizens aged above 60 years travelled by train. However, in 2021-22, about 5.5 crore used the Railways. Due to the

decrease in number of passengers, the Railways has experienced a dip in revenue from this category, with the earnings showing a downward slide of 13 per cent. The total revenue from senior citizen travellers during 2018-2019 was Rs 2,920 crore, Rs 3,010 crore in 2019-2020, Rs 875 crore in 2020-21 and Rs 2,598 crore in 2021-22, according to the RTI response. The coronavirus-related travel restrictions imposed during the first wave of COVID-19 in 2020 continued to be in place until the end of second wave of the pandemic.

Mumbai's century-old museum wins UNESCO Asia-Pacific award

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The restoration of the 100-year-old Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya in Mumbai has won a top award from UNESCO, with the jury hailing it as a project that "sets a standard" for the conservation of world heritage monuments. The museum, part of the Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai's world heritage property, has received the Award of Excellence in this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation that were announced on Saturday.

UNESCO Bangkok, in a statement, said, "The jury applauded the museum project for restoring 'a major civic institution in the historic city of Mumbai'. The jury noted, 'impressive in its scale, the project addressed extensive deterioration through well-informed architectural and engineering solutions, overcoming major challenges during the pandemic', it said. The "heroic" restoration of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya has received the Award of Excellence in this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, the statement said.

BJP govts work to ensure empowerment without appeasement: Naqvi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A politician's identity is not dependent on family lineage and the BJP's governments work to ensure empowerment without appeasement and development without discrimination, senior party leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Sunday, in an apparent dig at the Congress. Participating in meeting in Uttar Pradesh's Nauganva to seek support for the BJP's candidate, Akash Saxena, for the December 5 Rampur assembly bypoll, the former union minister said arrogance and anarchy

cause trouble. Politics of "arrogance of power and post" never lasts long and the welfare and wellbeing of the common people should be the objective of politicians, Naqvi said. The Rampur seat fell vacant after Samajwadi Party MLA Azam Khan was convicted by an MP-MLA court in a 2019 hate speech case. "The (Narendra) Modi-Yogi (Adityanath) era has replaced 'khandaani zamindari' (family feudalism) with 'khidmat ki ravadari' (devotion to service). This revolutionary change has jolted those who considered

politics as their 'dynastic property', a statement from Naqvi's office quoted him as saying at the meeting. "Prime Minister Modi has brought significant positive change in the country's politics. Now, a politician's identity is not dependent on a 'family cradle', but only his diligence and hard-work can establish him in politics," Naqvi said. Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Adityanath have made every section of society an equal partner of progress with the commitment to 'reform, perform and transform', he said.

ALL ABOUT AUTONOMY

Single woman farmers become entrepreneurs

PNS ■ RAYAGADA (ODISHA)

Vivid orange marigolds, dense purple aubergines and luminous green cabbages... not just farm produce but the colours of freedom for the women of Rayagada who defied a society unwilling to accept their status as single women to collectively find independence. Out to regain control over their lives and break free of societal shackles, more than 30 widows, divorced or unmarried women formed the Ekal Naari Sangathan (single women collective) in 2019. It was the starting point for a profitable busi-

ness venture that over time included more women, and the turning point in their lives. As they move through their fields tending to their crops, the song is back in their lives. Quite literally. Women working as helpers in farms alongside men is a common sight across India. But look carefully, hear closely and the difference is clear. The women of the tribal Dengasargi village in Rayagada, who break into song in Kui language, are the main decision makers who farm, market and sell their produce to earn their livelihood. The women's families own land



The Sangathan began with three acres to grow marigold as well as vegetables such as bitter melon, aubergine and cabbage. In the three years since, the land being cultivated has grown to 40 acres. The women's families own land

between 0.5 acre to 2 acres on which they grow flowers and vegetables. The collective sells it in the market. The amount earned goes directly in their bank accounts every week. "We had a turnover of Rs 47 lakh last year and this season we have made Rs 76 lakh. Of this, each woman farmer gets between Rs 80,000-1.5 lakh profit depending upon the size of land they are carrying out the cultivation on," said Morepingidhi. She is a board member of Annapoorna, the collective formed with the help of the government and NGOs, to sell

their produce. There are 98 women in the company right now. The marigold cultivated here is transported to different temples in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh and also used in family functions. "The company is now planning to extend its operations to other southern states," Morepingidhi said. For these women, most from the Kondha tribe, who didn't or couldn't get married, got divorced or were widowed, the financial independence has translated to not just autonomy but also respect and equal sta-

tus in their families and in society. "We were abused, called names for stepping out of our homes to farm. But when the money started coming in, our status not just in society but also in our own family changed," Morepingidhi said. The 35-year-old said she could not get married due to a leg injury and didn't get a chance to study because of her family's financial condition. She worked all her life in a farm where she grew rice and millet, just enough for the family to survive with nothing left to sell in the market.

Mufti, former legislators served eviction notices

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Authorities in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir Sunday asked PDP president Mehbooba Mufti and seven former legislators to vacate government residential quarters within 24 hours failing which action would be taken, officials said. Mufti was served an eviction notice for her 'Fairview' residence at the high security Gupkar area of the city here last month as well. Sunday's eviction notice, by the executive magistrate First class on the orders of the Anantnag deputy commis-

sioner was issued to Mufti and others for the government quarters located in Housing Colony at Khanabal in the south Kashmir district, the officials said. They said other than Mufti, the notices were issued to ex-MLAs Mohammad Altaf Wani, Abdul Rahim Rather, Abdul Majeed Bhat, Altaf Shah, and Abdul Kabir Pathan, ex-MLCs Bashir Shah and Choudhary Nizamuddin. The notices warned the occupants of action under law if they fail to vacate the premises within 24 hours, the officials said.

Precept and practice

Politicians say nice things in speeches but opt for expedience, as evident from their campaigns

When a netaji is pontificating about virtue, responsibility, etc., talking about dos and don'ts, he is actually telling his rivals how they should behave. He, however, would continue to do what he deems fits, expedient; after all, it is winnability that matters. Others, however, should behave themselves; they should not indulge in populism or promote the 'revdi' culture; their language should be civil, within the lakshman rekha. Almost all politicians are convinced that their adversaries should follow these rules; I, however, will do whatever I want to do. This has once again become evident in the run-up to the Assembly polls in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 16 cautioned the political class about the menace of what he called the "revdi culture." He was absolutely correct when he said that freebies are "very dangerous" for economic development. For a while it looked like the Bharatiya Janata

Party had decided to weed out the menace from the political arena. A BJP leader, Ashwini Upadhyay, petitioned the Supreme Court, seeking restrictions on parties on distributing "irrational freebies" before elections. All this looked nice—till the campaign for Assembly elections in the two states gained momentum. All the nice things said about the danger of freebies have been forgotten by the BJP. Other parties anyway were not preaching the virtues of fiscal prudence; in fact, Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party boss Arvind Kejriwal defended freebies with usual sanctimoniousness.

In Himachal, the BJP has promised Rs 2,500 every month to 5,000 girls in government schools with best performance in class 12 throughout their graduation. Also, all school girls will get bicycles and college girls scooties. While promoting female education is a laudable enterprise, one may wonder if freebies are the best way to do that. Unsurprisingly and expectedly, the AAP has promised free power, an unemployment allowance, and monthly cash allowance for all adult women in Gujarat, where its ambition is to topple the BJP Government. The saffron party has been ruling the western state for the last 27 years. Not to be left behind, the Congress manifesto has pledged farmers' debt waiver, gas cylinder at Rs 500, and 300 free units of electricity in Gujarat. Quite ominously, the party manifesto says, "Congress will stop mindless privatisation of healthcare and education." Such phraseology is the consequence of a socialist mindset. In a way, the three parties' elections manifestoes also show their desperation: the BJP doesn't want lose, especially in Gujarat because it is Modi's home state; the grand old party wants to stage a comeback; and the AAP wants to convince everyone that it is on a successful expansion drive, especially after its spectacular victory in Punjab earlier this year. In normal circumstances, politicians are not the best specimens of mankind; in their desperation, they can breach several norms of civility and canniness. This is exactly what they are doing now.



Artists perform a Garo traditional dance during Wangala festival at Chotipara, in Goalpara PTI

Govt's dilemma

Indian govt abstains on UNHRC resolution on anti hijab protesters to show its support to Iran

India abstained on a resolution adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to set up a fact-finding mission into alleged human rights violations in Iran committed on protesters in the country by state authorities. The anti-Hijab protests are at the peak in Iran which started after the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody. She paid with her life for not wearing a 'hijab'. India's was one of 16 abstentions on the resolution, sponsored by Germany and the Netherlands, and comes just a week after New Delhi voted against an Iran-specific resolution in the third committee of the UN General Assembly. Nevertheless, the resolution in the UNHRC was passed, at a special session of the 47-member human rights body. The resolution denounced the "violent crackdown on peaceful protests by security forces" which started after the death of Mahsa Amini. The resolution established a fact-finding mission into the allegations of human rights violations in Iran since September 16. China, Pakistan, Armenia, Eritrea, Cuba and Venezuela voted against the resolution. The two Gulf members of the Council, Qatar and United Arab Emirates, abstained and India gave them company. Earlier this month, the UN Security Council held an informal meeting on the Iranian protests. India did not give a statement at that meeting either. Two weeks later, on November 16, the UNGA's third committee voted on a draft resolution that referred to the death of Mahsa Amini and urged Iranian officials to "cease the use of excessive force against peaceful protesters, including women and children". India had voted 'No'.

It is indeed an Indian Govt's dilemma. From an economic perspective, Iran is the second-largest supplier of crude oil to India. India buys more than 4,25,000 barrels per day. India happens to be one of the largest foreign investors in Iran's oil and gas industry. The government wants to appease the Iranian rulers so as not to disturb its relations with them and so would not mind standing against the world at large in supporting hijab whereas back home it is doing the exact opposite. The Karnataka government led by the BJP is out to enforce 'hijab' ban and it does not mind crushing the pro hijab protesters. This is political expediency at its best where only interest matters. The govt doesn't mind looking regressive to the world, it is sheer convenience that is at play.

Remembering demonetization

Demonetisation was successful in curbing the informal economy and insulating the country from the neighbour's financial mischiefs

Reportedly, there are some 50 petitions pending in the country's courts protesting the demonetization of currency notes that was implemented on November 8, 2016; we just passed its eighth anniversary. Understandably, this move by the Narendra Modi government continues to generate much talk. In all, I have witnessed three demonetizations and therefore feel qualified to comment on the subject. In 1946, the old 1000-rupee note was demonetized. In 1978, high denomination notes were rendered invalid. We are today debating the 2016 decision.

In the pre-Modi era, it was widely believed that approximately 50 per cent of the Indian economy generated in the country could not be tapped at all for purposes of development. The black money had to be spent in less productive activities like land deals, property transactions and what not. Such money had to be spent quickly in order to keep it away from thieves and from income tax vigilance; its mention in any legal document was not possible. The tax-evaded money could neither be legally invested nor safely saved for even one's children, not to speak of national development. In brief, black was money only for the time being, in contrast to the bankable money, which was actual wealth.

What was unusual about Indian black money was that it was reported to be manufactured in our neighbouring countries. For example, superannuated Bihari cows used to have a ready market at fancy prices. West Bengal traders used to buy our toothbrushes readily; more especially if one did not write a bill and accepted cash. In the event the notes paid happened to be jaali (counterfeit) one would have been informed at which shop one could change it back to a valid note. When the thunderbolt of the 2016 demonetization burst upon India, everyone up to the upper middle class was able to change their cash. Those who were hit were the people who had hoarded large sums of black



money and could not change their notes. On the morrow of the occasion, many an economist or an intellectual began using the term "informal economy" for the black economy, because it is inappropriate for a respectable person to plead for something illegal.

The result of the action was to get rid of the hoarded cash lying wastefully. However, its greatest service was to interrupt for a long time, if not forever, the printing of Indian currency notes in neighbouring countries. Simultaneously, smuggling of goods was significantly reduced. Nevertheless, demonetization would have been a fleeting event, had it not been followed by the introduction of the Goods & Services Tax (GST).

I would like to bring in a personal experience in this particular regard. The sale of our toothbrushes increased within a fortnight. It was indeed a welcome surprise. Upon thinking further, we realized that quite a few of our competitors might not have maintained systematic records. Some of them were making brushes by simply sticking nylon into the plastic handles; they had brought these in on a friendly basis from, say, China. The history behind all this was that



IN THE PRE-MODI ERA, IT WAS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT APPROXIMATELY 50 PER CENT OF THE INDIAN ECONOMY GENERATED IN THE COUNTRY COULD NOT BE TAPPED AT ALL FOR PURPOSES OF DEVELOPMENT

toothbrush manufacturing was for decades, reserved for the small scale sector. In short, overnight, an informal activity turned into a formal sector one. Apart from sales tax, the additional fear was that from the GST website and the income tax department could also monitor how much of what product was being sold by whom.

An incidental but a substantial advantage that emerged from the introduction of the GST was the drastic reduction in lorry transport time. Post-GST, an interstate lorry no longer has to stop at every state border. The lorry's photograph and registration are recorded by CCTV. Earlier, the vehicle had to queue up at the state border to obtain clearance by the states' sales tax authorities. Up to 40 per cent travelling time has thus been saved.

Without the GST, the demonetization move of eight years ago would have been say, a birth without a life to follow up. And without demonetization, the GST might have been a life without a birth. Yet another advantage of GST has been the abolition of most other indirect taxes, starting from the excise duty. Imagine the expenditure saved to the tax-

payer on the one hand and the governments, beginning with the Centre, and ending with the states, small and big. As a guess, at least one-third of India's lorry time would have been saved. Above all, the tax has taken India towards its goal of one country one tax. Moreover, the demonetization has helped India avoid its exploitation by its neighbours. The veteran political analyst and economist S. Gurumurthy has likened the 2016 demonetization to a "financial Pokharan", i.e., a nuclear strike against not only black money, but covert financial war against the nation.

Assuming that in the pre-Modi era, 50 per cent of India's economy was black; at least half this amount is currently being ploughed back into the economy as white money. In that sense, India's economy has become 25 per cent larger spontaneously. It is also a necessary step towards making India a more modern economy, which is the first necessary step, if we aspire to make the rupee into a convertible currency. (The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SANJAY RAUT'S BAIL HEARING

Sir — As per report the single bench of the Bombay High Court on Friday November 25 recused itself from hearing the Enforcement Directorate's plea seeking cancellation of bail granted to Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut and his aide Pravin Raut in a money laundering case. The ED had approached the HC seeking cancellation of bail granted to the Rajya Sabha MP and his aide by a special court on November 9.

The Central probe agency had sought an interim stay on the bail order, which the High Court had refused. When the matter came up for hearing, the single bench of Justice M S Karnik said, "It would not be appropriate for me to take up this matter not before me." The matter will now be placed before a new bench. Sanjay Raut was granted bail by special PMLA judge M G Deshpande, over a hundred days after he was arrested in the money laundering case related to redevelopment of Patra Chawl in suburban Goregaon. The special court, in its order, had termed the Rajya Sabha member's arrest as "illegal, without reason". With this all is not well.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

WOES OF CONGRESS PARTY

Sir — Obviously, the woes of the Grand Old Party are far from over as a couple of its leaders are hell bent upon cutting the branch they are presently sitting on given that the party veteran and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has renewed his blitzkrieg against his bete noire and DY CM Sachin Pilot by calling him a 'traitor' and even going to the extent of accusing him of hatching a conspiracy in collusion with the BJP with a view to toppling the Congress government in Rajasthan. Down playing these charges however, Mr Pilot reminded that such a behaviour was unbecoming of a senior and experienced leader like Mr Gehlot and that the priority now should be given to Rajasthan where the assembly elections are due next year. In the same vein, he advised Ashok Gehlot to concentrate on Gujarat where the polls are round the corner and he (Mr Gehlot) is an

Mass shootings in the USA



The horrifying shooting inside a Walmart store at Chesapeake, Virginia a few days ago yet again underscores the growing gun culture in the US. Though the nerve-wracking incident reignites the debate over gun-control in America, realistically it is unlikely to result in any significant reforms, as the US has a deep and enduring connection to guns, integrated into the fabric of American society. Sadly and unsurprisingly mass shootings in the US have become a common affair, and it raises again the most

obvious question that has been discussed and debated many times in the past: "why can't America stop the scourge of gun violence?"

Distressingly enough, it cannot for the reason that gun violence in the US is symbolic of a broken political system that fails to protect its own citizens. Frequent mass shootings are a stain on the country's international reputation. In a broader sense, the failure to implement bold measures against gun violence is seen as a dysfunctional system of a government incapable of protecting its own citizens, including children. In fact, Pew Research Center's survey reveals the fact that an average 83 per cent of Americans have said that the US is no longer a good model of democracy to follow. This makes for depressing reading and seemingly makes it incumbent on the Biden administration to take immediate action on gun control and the need for gun reform.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

observer. Notably, Sachin Pilot also recently asked new Congress chief Mr Mallikarjun Kharge to initiate disciplinary proceedings against Mr Gehlot's royalist legislators who had boycotted the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meeting in Rajasthan and convened a parallel one instead, attended by the rebels. On the face of it, this internecine bickering in the Congress will simply lead to the differences among the leaders only to deepen.

Interestingly, Sachin Pilot has joined Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi in the ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', going to enter into Rajasthan in a couple of days and, hence, the party high command eagerly wants all the belligerent leaders to bury the hatchet as early as possible and unitedly campaign for the party's electoral prospects in the upcoming assembly polls getting ameliorated, or otherwise, all the hardships Mr Gandhi has been going through to amass public support everywhere during the foot march, might fall on stony ground.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

THE SPIRIT OF CONSTITUTION

Sir — "The Constitution is not a mere lawyer's document, it is a vehicle of life and it's spirit is always the spirit of age - Father of Indian Constitution." Every year India witnesses November 26 as the Constitution day, also to honour the law minister and architect of independent India, Dr BR Ambedkar who played a pivotal role in drafting the constitution of India. Samvidhan Diwas aims to highlight the importance, of the Indian constitution.

Our Transformative Constitution teaches us about making decisions with a lot of patience among people from diverse communities. It is embedded with vision and reflection of the future. People of India are custodian of the longest written Constitution. It empowers citizens, and citizens empowers Samvidhan too by respecting it religiously. The Constitution is nobody's preserve but it is everybody's preserve.

Tashi Baheti | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

The history of India is not just about slavery...The history of India is about emerging victorious, it is about the valour of countless greats.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

China would be willing to work together with North Korea for regional and global peace, stability and prosperity.

Chinese President — Xi Jinping

I think the thing that Trump was most perturbed about (was) me asking him to be my vice president...Trump started by screaming at me at the table, telling me I'm going to lose.



Rapper — Kanye West

The situation we were in and from there to reach 307 is a commendable total. Definitely, some things didn't go our way today but it's a learning curve, we can introspect, comeback with new ideas in the next game.

Indian cricketer — Shreyas Iyer

During the Congress rule in Gujarat (before 1995), communal riots were rampant. Congress used to incite people of different communities and castes to fight against each other.



Union Home Minister — Amit Shah

MONEY MATTERS

Gold imports fall 17% in April-Oct to US\$ 24 bn

Gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit, declined 17.38 per cent to about USD 24 billion during April-October due to fall in demand, according to the data of the commerce ministry. Imports of the yellow metal stood at USD 29 billion in the corresponding period of 2021-22. The imports during October this year also contracted by 27.47 per cent to USD 3.7 billion, the data showed. Silver imports during the month too dipped 34.80 per cent to USD 585 million. Cumulatively, the imports, however, jumped to USD 4.8 billion as against USD 1.52 billion during April-October 2021-22. The merchandise trade deficit for April-October 2022 was estimated at USD 173.46 billion as against USD 94.16 billion in the year-ago period. India is the largest importer of gold, which mainly caters to the demand of the jewellery industry. In volume terms, the country imports 800-900 tonne of gold annually. Gems and jewellery exports rose marginally by 1.81 per cent to USD 24 billion in April-October 2022.



Indian pharma exports rise by 4.22 pc to US\$ 14.57 billion

Pharmaceutical exports from India registered a growth of 4.22 per cent to reach USD 14.57 billion during the April-October period despite a negative trend last month, according to a senior official of an export promotion body under Government of India. Udaya Bhaskar, Director General of Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcl) which is an organisation under the Ministry of Commerce, said he was hopeful of ending the current fiscal at around USD 27 billion as against USD 24.62 billion during the last financial year. "There was a dip (-0.32 per cent) in July and (-5.45 per cent) and there was 8.47 per cent positive growth in September. I am optimistic that it will be revived in the coming months and may touch USD 27 billion at the end of the fiscal," Bhaskar told PTI. During the same period last fiscal, the exports fetched USD 13.98 billion.



Conclave deliberates on changing trends in HR mgmt

The changing trends in human resource management industry in the past few years and how the leaders in the sector need to adapt themselves with the new realities were moot points of discussion at a national-level meet here. The annual HR Conclave 2.0, organised by the Assam down town University (AdtU) on Saturday, brought together HR heads, staffing managers, industry leaders, entrepreneurs and social skilling organisations who shared their experiences and insights on HR trends and practices, a release said. Delivering the keynote address, Sanjay Bose, executive vice-president and head, HR, ITC Hotel group, spoke on the current business scenario and job availability. "There is room and need for greater focus, speed, boldness, and innovation. Resilient leaders view recovery as a journey for their organisation, teams and stakeholders."



CII urges RBI to moderate pace of interest rates hikes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India Inc has begun to feel the adverse impact of RBI's interest rate hikes of 190 basis points in the current financial year, industry body CII said on Sunday, as it urged the central bank to consider moderating the pace of its monetary tightening ahead of the forthcoming policy.

CII's analysis of results of 2,000-odd companies in the second quarter (July-September 2022) shows that both the top-line and bottom-line has moderated on sequential and annual basis. Thus, moderation in pace of monetary tightening is the need of the hour, it argued.

Kirit panel likely to suggest price cap for ONGC gas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A government-appointed gas price review panel, led by Kirit Parikh, is likely to recommend price caps for natural gas produced from legacy fields of state-owned firms to help moderate CNG and piped cooking gas rates, while keeping the pricing formula for difficult fields unchanged.

The panel, which was tasked with suggesting a 'fair price to the end-consumer' while ensuring 'market-oriented, transparent and reliable pricing regime for India's long-term vision for ensuring a gas-based economy', may opt to suggest two different pricing regimes, officials said.

For the legacy or old fields of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) -- where the cost has long been recovered and which are currently governed by a formula that uses rates in gas-

NO CHANGE IN FORMULA FOR RELIANCE



The panel, which was tasked with suggesting a 'fair price to the end-consumer' while ensuring 'market-oriented, transparent and reliable pricing regime for India's long-term vision for ensuring a gas-based economy', may opt to suggest two different pricing regimes.

surplus nations such as the US, Canada and Russia -- the committee is likely to recommend a floor or minimum base price and cap or ceiling rates. This would ensure that prices do not fall below cost of production, as they did last year, or do not spike to record levels as currently.

Gas from legacy fields is sold to city gas distributors who had to raise rates of CNG

and piped cooking gas by over 70 per cent after prices went up from USD 2.90 per million British thermal unit till March to USD 6.10 in April and further to USD 8.57 last month, reflecting a surge in global rates. This rise in rates, which narrowed the gap between CNG and polluting diesel, had prompted the review.

For the gas from difficult

fields such as those lying in deepsea or which are in high-pressure, high-temperature zones, the committee is likely to suggest not tinkering with the existing mechanism of paying them higher rates based on a different formula to compensate for the greater risk and cost involved, officials said.

This would ensure that explorers, who are seeing a surge in cost of services due to the spike in global energy rates, are not put at disadvantage.

This way the concerns over investments in exploration and production (E&P) being hit would also be addressed, they said, adding that market-driven pricing would also encourage new investments and attract global players. KG-D6 fields of Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner bp plc of UK are governed by the pricing formula for difficult fields. Rates for difficult fields from October 1 is USD 12.46 per mmBtu.

India has great opportunity to make steel for domestic, global needs: T V Narendran

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Welcoming the government's move to remove export duty on steel, Tata Steel CEO T V Narendran said India has a great opportunity to make steel for domestic consumption as well as to meet global needs.

"We welcome the government's decision to roll back the export duty on steel products and iron ore, imposed to deal with the inflationary situation, and we acknowledge the same," Narendran told PTI.

India, being richly endowed with iron ore, has a great opportunity to make steel in India, for India, and for the world, he said.

China, Japan, and South Korea, together export around 150 million tonne of steel annually despite importing most of their iron ore needs, Narendran noted.

Six months after imposition of the levy on May 21, the government removed the export duty on steel items and iron ore to nil effective from November 19, 2022.

BATTLE FOR RNLIC

Nippon top brass likely to visit India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The race for acquisition of Reliance Capital's 51 per cent stake in Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Co (RNLIC) is intensifying, with the top brass of the Japanese partner in the joint venture likely to visit India this week to flag its concerns with the ongoing resolution process under insolvency laws, sources said. Japan's Nippon Life, which holds 49 per cent stake in RNLIC, is opposed to the entry of Aditya Birla Sun Life in the race to acquire Reliance Capital's stake in RNLIC.

Sources with knowledge of the matter said Nippon Life's Global President Hiroshi Shimizu along with Minoru Kimura, managing executive officer and head of global business, Nippon Life Insurance, and Tomohiro



Yao, regional CEO, Nippon Life Asia Pacific and Director, RNLIC, are likely to visit Mumbai on Monday.

Shimizu and his team may meet senior officials of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other stakeholders, and apprise them of their position with regard to their investment in RNLIC and their long-term commitment to the Indian insurance sector.

The visit coincides with the deadline for submitting the final binding bids for Reliance Capital and its subsidiaries, including RNLIC.

Macro data, global trends to guide markets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Trading activity in the equity market this week will depend on macroeconomic data announcements, monthly auto sales numbers and global trends, analysts said.

Bulls dominated Dalal Street last week, supported by favourable triggers like buying by Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) and a drop in crude prices.

Last week, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex rallied 630.16 points or 1 per cent. On Friday, the Sensex settled at 62,293.64 -- its record closing high. The NSE Nifty too ended at its lifetime peak of 18,512.75.

"This week, our Q2 GDP numbers and monthly auto



sales numbers will be key domestic factors. On the global front, the market will keep an eye on data from the US and any further movement of the dollar index and US bond yields. Apart from this, news flow from China will continue to cause some volatility," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said this week participants will be focusing on key macro-economic data -- GDP numbers and manufacturing PMI -- for cues.

"Besides, with the beginning of the new month, auto sales will also start pouring in from December 1. Apart from the domestic data set, performance of the global indices especially the US will remain on the radar," Mishra added.

GDP data for the second quarter is scheduled to be announced on Wednesday, while Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data for the manufacturing sector will be released on Thursday.

Mcap of nine of top 10 firms climbs Rs 79,798 crore

○ TCS, Infosys biggest winners

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nine of the top 10 valued firms together added Rs 79,798.3 crore in market valuation last week, with IT majors Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys emerging as the biggest winners.

In the last week, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 630.16 points or 1 per cent. The barometer settled at 62,293.64, its fresh record closing high on Friday.

Barring Adani Enterprises, all the 10 most valued firms including Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Hindustan Unilever Limited witnessed gains in their valuation. The market valuation of TCS jumped Rs 17,215.83 crore to Rs 12,39,997.62 crore.



Infosys added Rs 15,946.6 crore taking its valuation to Rs 6,86,211.59 crore.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries rallied Rs 13,192.48 crore to Rs 17,70,532.20 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever climbed Rs 12,535.07 crore to Rs 5,95,997.32 crore.

ICICI Bank's market capitalisation (mcap) zoomed Rs 6,463.34 crore to Rs 6,48,362.25 crore and that of Bharti Airtel gained Rs 5,451.97 crore to Rs 4,71,094.46 crore.

REVIVAL OF OLD PENSION SCHEME

It will burden future taxpayers: NITI Aayog VC expresses concern

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery on Sunday expressed concern over the revival of Old Pension Scheme by some states, saying it would burden future taxpayers at a time when India needs to focus on fiscal prudence and promoting sustained growth.

In an interview to PTI, Bery also underlined the need for enhancing capital expenditure and creating a space for the private sector through fiscal consolidation.

"I am slightly more worried about the return to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). I



think that is more of a concern because the cost will be borne by future taxpayers and citizens, not the present," he said.

The OPS, under which the entire pension amount was given by the government, was discontinued by the NDA government in 2003 from April 1, 2004.

Under the new pension scheme, employees contribute 10 per cent of their basic

salary towards pension while the state government contributes 14 per cent.

"I think political parties have to exercise discipline, since we are all working for a common cause of growth of the Indian economy, and for India to become a developed economy, you know the long-term (objectives) needs to be balanced against the short-term (objectives)," Bery said. Two Congress-ruled states, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, have already decided to implement OPS while BJP-ruled Himachal Pradesh has promised to restore the scheme if voted to power in the state.

Most delayed projects in roads and highways sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The road transport and highways sector has the maximum number of delayed projects at 243, followed by railways at 114 and the petroleum sector at 89, showed a government report.

In the road transport and highways sector, 243 out of 826 projects are delayed. In railways, out of 173 projects, 114 are delayed, while in petroleum sector, 89 out of 142 projects are delayed,

as per the latest flash report on infrastructure projects for October 2022.

The Infrastructure and Project Monitoring Division (IPMD) is mandated to monitor central sector infrastructure projects costing Rs 150 crore and above based on the information provided on the Online Computerised Monitoring System (OCMS) by the project implementing agencies. The IPMD comes under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, shared the Nobel Prize with former US Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke and US-based economist Philip H Dybvig for their research into the fallout from bank failures.

According to the Nobel panel at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, their research has shown "why avoiding bank collapses is vital".

Asked about the continuous fall of the Indian rupee against the USD dollar, Diamond says, "It is difficult to predict the exchange rates. When the US raises rates unexpectedly, the dollar tends to appreciate. Once

IDBI Bank to continue as 'Indian private sector bank'

○ Govt's 15% residual stake to be considered public holding

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IDBI Bank will continue to operate as an 'Indian private sector bank' after its strategic sale and the government's residual 15 per cent stake in the lender post privatisation will be considered as 'public shareholding', the finance ministry said on Sunday.

An 'appropriate dispensation' for the new owner to achieve minimum public shareholding (MPS) over an



extended period is under consideration and the winning bidder will have no restriction on undertaking corporate restructuring of the subsidiaries of IDBI Bank, it added.

These clarifications are part of the responses by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), under the finance ministry, to potential investors' pre-EoI queries. The government had on October 7 invited bids for privatising IDBI Bank and said that it together with LIC will sell a total of 60.72 per cent stake in the financial institution.

The last date for putting in

Expression of Interest (EoI) or preliminary bids is December 16. The government and LIC together hold 94.72 per cent stake in IDBI Bank. The successful bidder would be required to make an open offer for acquisition of 5.28 per cent public shareholding.

Pursuant to the transaction, the government will own 15 per cent stake and LIC 19 per cent shareholding in IDBI Bank, taking their total holding to 34 per cent.



FPIs flock to Indian mkt; buy shares worth Rs 31,630 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign portfolio investors have rediscovered their liking for Indian equities, making a net investment of Rs 31,630 crore in November on hopes of an end to the aggressive rate hikes, and positivity about overall macro-economic trends.

According to experts, after remaining net sellers in August and September, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) are unlikely to be major sellers going forward.

Rising expectations of aggressive rate hike cycles nearing an end on relatively easing inflationary curve, better than expected US macroeconomics data and resilience of the Indian economy compared to global counterparts are also driving FPI inflows.

According to data available with the depositories, FPIs invested a net sum of Rs 31,630 crore in equities during November 1-25. In comparison, there was a net outflow of Rs 8 crore and Rs 7,624 crore in October and September, respectively.

In August, FPIs were net buyers to the tune of 51,200 crore and they purchased equities worth nearly Rs 5,000 crore in July.

Prior to this positive trend, FPIs remained net sellers for nine straight months starting October 2021 amid a continuous rise in the dollar.

Going ahead, FPI flows are expected to remain volatile in the near term given the geopolitical concerns, Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities, said.

So far this year, the total outflow by FPIs in equities stood at Rs 1.37 lakh crore.

The spurt in net inflows in November could be attributed to recent surge in equity markets, stability in the Indian economy compared to its global counterparts and stabilisation in the rupee, Morningstar India Associate Director - Manager Research Himanshu Srivastava said.

'Rupee should stabilise once US cuts speed of its rate increases'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Douglas W Diamond, winner of this year's Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, says it is difficult to predict exchange rates but the rupee should stabilise once the US "reduces the speed of its rate increases".

In an email interview to PTI, the American economist also said that when the US raises exchange rates unexpectedly, the dollar tends to appreciate and things will normalise when interest rates are closer to each other in the US and India.

Diamond, a Merton H Miller Distinguished Service Professor of Finance at the

University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, shared the Nobel Prize with former US Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke and US-based economist Philip H Dybvig for their research into the fallout from bank failures.

According to the Nobel panel at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, their research has shown "why avoiding bank collapses is vital".

Asked about the continuous fall of the Indian rupee against the USD dollar, Diamond says, "It is difficult to predict the exchange rates. When the US raises rates unexpectedly, the dollar tends to appreciate. Once



the US reduces the speed of its rate increases, the rupee should stabilise."

On Friday, the rupee appre-

ciated 16 paise to 81.54 against the US dollar.

Diamond, who had once observed that delegated mon-

itoring allows savers to get access to safe and high returns, says bank monitoring works well when banks are well capitalised and there is little lending to bank insiders.

"I expect this to continue in the future. For savers to get high returns, a reasonable amount of bank competition is needed as well," he argues.

Diamond, who had collaborated with former RBI governor Raghuram G Rajan on the theory of banking in 2001, says one of their conclusions was that banks need to be a bit fragile to discipline them.


"This remains true. Short-term debt provides discipline

because banks must continue to appear healthy to retain their funding. This possible loss of funding does make them fragile," he says.

The research paper of Diamond and Rajan on 'Liquidity Risk, Liquidity Creation, and Financial Fragility: A Theory of Banking' was published in the Journal of Political Economy.

Diamond is known for his research in financial intermediaries, financial crises and liquidity. His research agenda for the past 40 years has been to explain what banks do, why they do it and the consequences of these arrangements.

Prateik Babbar plays migrant worker who walks back home during lockdown



Prateik Babbar, who made his mark in the entertainment industry with his work in *Dum Maaro Dum*, *Darbar* and *Brahmastra*, is all set for his upcoming film *India Lockdown*, directed by Madhur Bhandarkar. He talked about his role and what makes the film worth watching.

He is seen playing the role of Madhav, a migrant worker forced to walk back with his wife to his village because of the lockdown.

Speaking about his role, Prateik said, "My role is that of a migrant worker whose life comes to a standstill and he is stuck in a dilemma between whether he should try and survive in a city away from home or will it be wise to go back home and live within your means."

On the question of how he prepared for his character, the *Baaghi* 2 actor added, "We had a lot of prep going for this character. I met a few migrant workers and had heart-to-heart conversations with them. I was a

keen observer of everything they shared and did. Right from their body language and how they lived their mundane life. All these day-to-day observations gave me insight into playing Madhav."

The actor said that another challenging task was learning the dialect and for perfection, he took coaching and watched movies.

"The dialect was different. It is Hindi but more like Bihari Hindi. The pronunciations were very different. We had a dialogue coach on set who helped us through every word, dialogue, and emotion. That was a little bit about the prep. I also watched reference films, *Chakra*, *Aakrosh*, *Ankur*, *Do Bigha Zamin* which had characters similar to the migrants. Understanding their struggle and angst was a very important insight into preparing for Madhav."

India Lockdown is all about the effect of the pandemic and lockdown on common people. It highlights how many became jobless, the issue of migrant workers while

going back to their native places, and sex workers deprived of their source of income.

When asked what made the film worth watching and how people will connect with it, he said, "Why shouldn't people watch 'India Lockdown'? It is an emotion we all share globally and is not just limited to our country. It is a universally shared emotion. It binds us together. *India Lockdown* portrays feelings and emotions of angst, confusion, anxiety, and restlessness experienced by labourers and citizens across the globe."

"I think coping with the pandemic was not easy. It is a reminder of the times we all experienced darkness together and also came out together and found light. The human spirit was tested but we emerged stronger," he concluded.

Starring Shweta Basu Prasad, Prateik Babbar, Aahana Kumra, Sai Tamhankar, and Prakash Belawadi in lead roles, the film will stream on ZEE5 from December 2.



Elton John says he will support his sons if they enter the music industry

British singer-composer Sir Elton John has vowed to support his sons if they follow him into the music industry.

The 75-year-old singer has two sons Zachary (11) and Elijah (9), with his husband David Furnish, and Elton has promised to support his kids in whatever careers they choose, reports Female First UK.

He told E! News, "They are still so young, so not entirely sure [what they want to do]. But of course, whatever their dreams and ambitions are, my husband David and I will fully support them."

Sir Elton recently finished the American leg of his Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour, and he's now looking forward to spending more time with his kids.

He said, quoted by Female First UK, "I am of course looking forward to spending more time with my sons. I am also looking forward to being able to dedicate more of my time to other projects, like the Elton John AIDS Foundation."

The *Rocket Man* hitmaker said, "I was carrying this little boy around for hours. We had a press conference at the end and they said 'You seem very fond of this little boy. Would you think of adopting him?' and I went 'I'd actually love to!' Of course, not thinking about social media, it went around the world straight away. It was 'Elton John wants to adopt two children.'" And ultimately, Elton and David weren't allowed to adopt the boy.

Adele cracks jokes, tells fans to order drinks during her Vegas act



British singer Adele said that she has worked her "absolute a*** off" to create her Las Vegas show.

The 34-year-old singer previously postponed her entire residency, just 24 hours before the opening night after her team were hit by Covid-19 outbreak, and Adele has now confessed that her fans "wouldn't have liked" the show,

reports Female First UK.

She said on stage, "I worked my absolute a*** off for this. I couldn't have done that other show and you wouldn't have liked it either, I'm telling you that." The *Easy on Me* hitmaker, who is one of the world's best-selling artists, also joked that her fans will enjoy her show more after they've had a few drinks.

According to the 'Sunday Mirror' newspaper, she told fans, "Go and order some drinks...the drunker you are, the better I am."

Earlier this year, an insider explained that Adele had made a conscious decision to make her shows at Caesars Palace more "intimate" than she previously planned.

The source said at the time, quoted by

Female First UK: "Adele has revised her plan for the show, has stripped it back. The production will be very classy, the show is centred on her energy and vocals."

Adele postponed her entire residency in January, and the award-winning star subsequently took to social media to explain the decision to her fans. Female First UK further states that the London-born star also apologised to her fans, but insisted that it was "impossible to finish the show."

Adele said on Instagram at the time, "I'm so sorry, but my show ain't ready. Half my team has COVID and it's been impossible to finish the show." Adele also confessed to feeling "embarrassed" about the situation. She said, "I'm sorry, it's last minute, I'm so upset and I'm really embarrassed and I'm so sorry to everyone that's travelled again."

First time Aishwarya applied make-up in *Taal* was for *Kahi Aag* song



Veteran filmmaker Subhash Ghai said he always prefers his heroines to use less makeup and recalls how Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai applied makeup for the first time in the 1999 film *Taal* during the shoot of the song *Kahi Aag Lag Jaaye*.

Taal was a 1999 musical romantic film directed by Subhash Ghai starring Aishwarya Rai, Akshaye Khanna, and Anil Kapoor in lead roles.

It was a box office hit and is remembered for its music, songs, choreography, and performance of the actors.

The ace director said, "I always request my heroines to limit their use of make-up as it brings out real emotions. The first time Aishwarya applied make-up in the film *Taal* was during the shoot of the song *Kahi Aag Lag Jaaye*. When I cast Aishwarya for the role, I wanted to portray the life of a simple and divine girl who was naturally beautiful."

Talking about how make-up artist Mickey Contractor was onboarded for Aishwarya's look in the film, he added: "I told him (Mickey Contractor) that I will pay you as much money as you want but I request you to not use make-up on Aishwarya. Mickey being a professional immediately understood my point and mentioned that this was an even tougher job."

Moving ahead in the conversation, after looking at the performance by Senjuti Das from Kolkata on the song, *Taal Se Taal Milao*, he praised her and said, "You sang very well, Senjuti. The best thing about this show is that it helps us relive our life again."

The host of the show and singer Aditya Narayan also joined her dur-


ing the performance and this impresses the celebrity guest and director, he added, "Today, I felt that Udit (Narayan) ji was standing near me and performing."

Judge Neha Kakkar also said, "You are a perfectionist Senjuti, and it reflects in the way you perform."


The top 12 contestants on the show are Rishi Singh from Ayodhya, Bidipta Chakraborty, Anushka Patra, Debosmita Roy, Senjuti Das, Sonakshi Kar from Kolkata, Chirag Kotwal from Jammu, Vineet Singh from Lucknow, Rupam Bharnarhia, Navdeep Wadali from Amritsar, Shivam Singh, Kavya Limaye from Gujarat.

Judged by Himesh Reshammiya, Neha Kakkar, and Vishal Dadlani, *Indian Idol 13* airs on Sony Entertainment Television.


ARCHIE




CALVIN AND HOBBS




NANCY




GINGER MEGGS



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



SUDOKU

7			2			6
5	9		3			1
		7			8	9
	2	1		3		4
				2		
3		9		6	1	
	2	7			9	
5				1		9
1			3			2

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5			
6				7			8
9				10			
				11			
12		13				14	15
17						16	
						18	
19							

ACROSS

- A four-sided shape
- A month
- A number of people or things together
- Change direction
- A road in a town
- To tremble or shake a little
- Female horse
- Choose by votes
- A grown-up
- Put together from parts

DOWN

- Mistake
- Chatter
- These are longer in winter

SOLUTION

P	E	A	C	E	F	U	L
S	I	C	A	S	S	C	
C	H	A	I	R	S	A	U
H	N	O	Y	A	R		
O	B	O	L	I	S	T	C
O	S	C					E
L	A	W	N		C	O	F
B	H	K		P	A	T	
A	G	A	I	N		P	
G	L	E	S			R	
R	E	H	E	A	R	S	E

My hands were full in Brazil, but my aspirations didn't die: Jeniffer Piccinato

Brazilian model and actress Jeniffer Piccinato gets candid with *The Pioneer* over an exclusive chat, tracing us back to her Brazilian roots, playing the role of geologist in *Ram Setu*, working with Akshay Kumar, and much more.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

In the public consciousness, Jeniffer Piccinato is known for her stunning physique, good looks, and her acting skills. Nevertheless, the fact that she has survived in the industry coming from Brazil for as long as she has is proof of her professionalism and audience-pulling power!

When we first put together the questions for this interview, we added about two very relevant questions for her – tracing us back to her Brazilian roots and giving a head-on to Akshay Kumar on the sets of *Ram Setu*.

She first answered, “Born and raised in a very small town, it’s going to be interesting for the readers to know where I hail from. My family had no idea about taking such a gigantic step in my life and landing in India all the way from Brazil. At the age of nine, my interests were in modeling, and took it up professionally in my hometown. My parents agreed for me to pursue any ‘artistic’ career only if I graduate. Post that, I started to train myself then and there. In my country, the beauty pageant world is very competitive! However, I didn’t give up and tend to do well there at the fashion shows too by stealing the show. Simultaneously,

was a helping hand to my mum who runs a beauty salon in Brazil. You see, my hands were full but my aspirations didn’t die. I am not just a graduate, I am a certified fashion designer, hairstylist, make-up artist and an actress today.”

She revealed that while growing up she was rather exposed to Hollywood films than Bollywood. She said, “I have my extended family in Europe too. Could have grabbed an opportunity in European films too, prominently, Italy. I had nothing to do with an Asian country! I was called to India for the first time in anticipation of doing a television commercial for the brand Pantene, couldn’t say no to it. An advertisement also was a challenge to me back then. They informed me that the advertisement will be showcased during festivities, and my logistics rang the bell in terms of ‘promotion’. But I had no idea about what we do on Diwali (she laughs). The same year, the Barbie red saree that went viral in the country — was me. Pantene gave me a substantial platform and I was the next international model in the running. Was signed by ten countries one by one, it was huge for me.”

For the past ten years or more, she’s living in a suitcase and got exposed to multiple cultures. “After my stint in New York, my film journey began. The recent hit, *Ram Setu* will always remain definite for me because the role of a geologist wasn’t based on my

appearance or sex appeal. They saw potential in me! Noticed another side to me while auditioning which was – my natural hair texture is curly but I kept straightening them while this film realised me to use it as my USP. I got a chance to be the real Jeniffer in *Ram Setu*! My freckles were showing, it was even more liberating as a woman to me on the sets that the crew isn’t discriminating against the actress.”

The role of a geologist didn’t come easy to her. She had to undergo so much investigation about the instruments they use too. She narrated, “A geologist uses a specific machine and I had no elms about it. I was spending most of the time in a laboratory made in the film city which was nothing less than a real one! I took a break from my fitness regime and stopped going outdoors for a while. The majority of the scenes are shot around the sea, as much as I wanted to swim I couldn’t because I was totally immersed in my character. But then came up a scene where I had to do the swimming bit too because I was drowning. Divers were around me for safety protocols, yet there we were freezing to death in the middle of the sea because it was winter. I was given the option to refuse too, nonetheless, I didn’t because I wanted to enjoy it. It was all for that close-up shot! So, from childhood, had a nerdy side to me and I got to play that on-screen which was interesting to me too.”

Not everyone chooses to be a geologist in the mainstream, it was evident her research had to be doubled. She added, “The AMS machine technique was something I was supposed to specialise in. Learned about the era of Lord Ram, and so many surprising facts came up to me. The proper and best approach was with the real geologist; although the groundwork was so exhausting but the creativity in it was giving me a kick with a human approach to my character.”

Sharing her closeness with Akshay Kumar, she said, “He had no tantrums to throw: always on time despite being a biggie in our industry. He’s razor-sharp while delivering his stunts, he amazed me. A well-known actor was doing action scenes in front of me, what better could I have witnessed on the sets? He hardly asks for a retake, that’s another revelation. I got to know he’s such a busy actor in the industry, that we had to finish our sequences in a limited time frame without skipping our dialogues. Parallely, his other projects were going on too and he was least distracted.”

She has seen almost all of this country, she accepts more than her own country and bursts into laughter. “A ship was built in a studio location, submarine scenes were shot on a green screen. Felt nothing less than Hollywood! Water stunts were scary, it was deep, especially in the open sea with a speed boat having Akshay, Jacqueline, Satyadev, and me.”



Using content creation as a tool to decolonise Indian minds



TEJAL SINHA

There have been different ways through which people have worked towards making the nation a better place. Over time, social media has become a very powerful tool. While many NGOs and government organisations collaborate to address various social issues, there’s Abhiraj and Niyati, aka Abhi and Niyu, the content creator duo who use their content to decolonise Indian minds and make a better India. Before the duo got together and made content, content creation initially began for Abhiraj in 2017, after he realised he was spending a lot of time translating his client’s vision into a concrete prod-

uct. He wanted to spend time sharing his own voice, and he wanted to talk about India. The initial idea was to travel across India and talk to people, then make short documentary-style videos with edited excerpts from these conversations. That’s how “Following Love” started in 2017. Later, in 2018, when they got married, Niyati also joined Abhiraj in front of the camera. Today, in just a span of over 4 years, they have over 2.7 million followers on Instagram and over 3.25 million subscribers on YouTube. They have come across several series that have helped people connect with India more closely over time; one of them being “100 Reasons to Love India.” This series marked the

time when they dove into content creation full-time without having a backup plan as such. Sharing more about the series Niyati said, “We noticed that social media feeds had become increasingly negative. Everyone only spoke about the problems in the country. We felt we Indians needed to know more about our own country, culture, and traditions. We must be proud of those who have worked tirelessly to solve people’s problems. We wanted to showcase the positive aspects of India that existed apart from the negativity online. The motive was never to find the top 100 reasons to love India; that would not have been possible. But it was to conclude the discussion with the

Abhiraj and Niyati, aka Abhi and Niyu, one of the most viral content creators, will soon be representing India at the COP27 in Egypt. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, the duo gets candid about their journey, working towards different social campaigns, and the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) of the UNFCCC.

numerous reasons we had not discussed. It was to take people on a journey with us and end with them feeling pride for their country and giving them a glimpse of everything.” Similarly, they had recently also released a video on YouTube and discussed the incredible solution to blood cancer on National Cancer Awareness Day, and over 40,000 people had signed up within 2 months of the video release. Talking about the challenges, Niyati said, “The first challenge is sceptical people. People do not want to believe that India can do anything good or fix its problems. That India had a rich past, we have been trained to look down on anything that is Indian. So when we made videos, we had many people who repeatedly told us that we needed to focus on the problems. And because India had so many issues, it could just not have any good elements in it. There are still people who refuse to believe there can be anything good about the country. There are many people who have given up and refused to think that the problems in the country can be solved. But that cynicism doesn’t actually help the country. The other challenge is that even when we give solutions, people are sceptical and keep saying they won’t work. But whenever there is a problem, it can only be fixed if all of us start

talking about solutions.” With their continuous positive work towards society, they have become the only group of Indian content creators to represent India at COP27 in Egypt and act as a bridge between Indians and the global climate conference. In fact, they’re the only duo that has been invited from all over Asia to attend the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Talking about how COP27 had happened, Niyati went on to say, “We had a friend reach out to us and say that he knew an organisation that wanted to take people to cover COP27. We frequently talk about environmental issues and thought this would be a good platform to talk to world leaders, startups, NGOs, and other organisations that are trying to make a difference. We shared our work links, and after a few weeks, we heard back saying we were accepted and we would be going to Sharm El Sheikh for COP27. It was also important for us to be there because we represent the new age of internet media from India. People who watch our videos consider us a credible information source. Although our content is targeted toward the Indian masses, being recognised by an international organisation is really exciting.”

Go-to regime of experts to treat dry skin

Factors such as low humidity levels, temperature, dry indoor heat, and harsh wind can all zap your skin of moisture. This can leave your skin looking a lot less radiant — not only your face, but also your hands, feet, and other areas can be exposed. The dryness of skin can affect many people, and the severity of the symptoms can vary significantly. Dr. Geetika Mittal Gupta, skin expert, and cosmetologist, shares a few simple steps that you can take to ensure that your skin looks healthy, even during weather changes, or when the temperature dips. **Check your diet** Apart from external skin care routines, it will be instrumental for you to adopt some dietary changes that include antioxidant rich food to nurture your skin from the inside. Foods like whole grains, cereals and nuts like almonds are rich in vitamin E, which helps increase blood flow to the skin, thus making it smooth and supple. Eating almonds daily in place of typical calorie-matched snacks may be an effective means of improving the appearance of facial wrinkles and skin tone. **Almond oil all the way** Face oils are packed with ingredients such as polyph-

nols, fatty acids, and antioxidants which help reduce inflammation and give skin a dewy glow. Face oils have become a beauty cabinet staple thanks to their natural ability to hydrate and nourish a variety of skin types. You can use a variety of oils that are known to work wonders. Almonds have long been used in beauty remedies to nourish the skin and keep it beautiful. Almonds are a great source of vitamin E and fatty acids that provide intensive moisture to the skin. It therefore makes for a great body lotion ingredient to bring back life to dry and dull skin. **DIY face masks for dry skin** A facial mask can replenish and moisturize your skin. These are effective treatments because the ingredients are able to sit on your skin for about 10 to 30 minutes. The nutrients and vitamins penetrate your skin, deep cleaning your pores and removing the outermost layer of dead skin. You can quickly churn a DIY face mask using ingredients in your kitchen like avocado, oatmeal, honey, turmeric, almonds or banana. One of the easiest face masks that you can make at the comfort of your home is almond and milk face mask which can be made using two ingredients. Mix 1 tablespoon of almond powder and 2 tablespoon raw milk together and you’re ready to go. Keep this mask on your face for 20 minutes and then rinse your face thoroughly with lukewarm water. You may apply this mask on your arms and legs too.



IND VS NZ: RAIN PLAYS SPOILSPORT AGAIN



PTI ■ HAMILTON

The elegant Shubman Gill and the marauding Suryakumar Yadav briefly entertained a sizeable Sunday crowd before inclement weather yet again played spoilsport and forced abandonment of the second ODI between India and New Zealand, here Sunday.

India were 89 for 1 in 12.5 overs when a second stoppage sealed the fate of the game as there was no possibility of having a minimum 20-over per side match within the stipulated cut-

off time. The match was reduced to 29-overs-a-side as the first interruption caused a four-hour break. India were 22 for no loss in the fifth over at that time.

After resumption, the visitors lost skipper Shikhar Dhawan (3 off 10 balls) trying to up the ante. Gill (45 not out, 42 balls) and Suryakumar (34 not out, 25 balls) added 66 effortless runs under eight overs before heavens opened up once again. Gill had four boundaries and a pulled six off Matt Henry while Suryakumar hit three different sixes — slog sweep over

mid-wicket, reverse sweep behind square and a pull-shot to carry his T20I form into the longer format. The short six-game white ball series against New Zealand has been one of the most rain-interrupted series of recent times. The first T20 in Wellington was also abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Even the third T20I match in Napier was a rain-marred. The final match of the series will be held in Christchurch on November 30.

International teams usually tour the New Zealand between

December and March and poor scheduling where the vagaries of weather wasn't factored in, has spoilt the limited overs series.

The ongoing series is being held during receding monsoon and there won't be any take-aways from the series where no player got enough opportunity to get into the groove. There isn't a big sample size of performance to evaluate but Surya certainly has been a shining star and Gill with his phenomenal talent is making a serious case for himself for a permanent place in the ODI playing eleven.

Cricket an outdoor sport, should be played under sun as much as possible: NZ coach

PTI ■ HAMILTON

Retractable roof stadiums could be an option but there's no substitute to playing cricket under the sun as it makes the sport a spectacle, feels New Zealand coach Gary Stead.

Four matches in the recently-concluded T20 World Cup in

There is still room for pure batsmanship in T20 cricket: Stead

PTI ■ HAMILTON

Unperturbed by criticism of their conservative approach to batting in the T20 World Cup recently, New Zealand coach Gary Stead on Sunday said there's "still room for pure batsmanship" in the slam-bang format.

The Black Caps failed to win a global ICC white-ball tournament once again when they lost to Pakistan by seven wickets in the semi-finals in Australia earlier this month after their batters failed to fire and managed a modest 152/4.

"I know there's a lot of chat around a number of players around the world in the T20 game but, in my opinion, many of the wickets we play on, it's not just about the game of crash bash the whole time," the 50-year-old told reporters.

"We have a couple of players with Devon (Conway) and Kane (Williamson) who probably put in that crafty kind of batsmanship as opposed to those crash-bash style from ball one. There is still a place for those players in my opinion."

"The World Cup in Australia actually showed a number of times that the batsmanship side of it comes into it."

England, who became the only team to hold both the ODI and T20 World Cups titles in the same cycle, have been successful with the template of playing fearless and aggressive cricket from ball one.

"You have to look at the resources within your group and then you got to look at what the gameplan is. Some teams are going down the method of boundary-hitting the whole time."

"But we showed in a couple of games that there's a different way of playing as well. The team selected are the best XV or XI that we had," the former Kiwi Test batter said, defending their strategy.

"For us, that's still the way we are playing the game. That may change again we have to keep



reviewing our style of play and making sure that we keep up with play."

Stead further said they had a par score against Pakistan in the semis, but it's their bowlers who let them down.

"It's more than just batting in T20 cricket, it's also your bowlers. Pakistan bowled exceedingly well at us, but we had a score that was potentially defendable. We just didn't start best with the ball in the game," he said.

SURYA, A HUGE FORCE

The Kiwi coach hailed India's latest white-ball sensation Suryakumar Yadav who sizzled with his powerful performances during the T20 showpiece.

"He makes it look terribly easy at times and extremely hard to bowl to because he can access both sides of the ground, he starts from ball one and puts you under enormous pressure."

"He's very innovative as well, his shots are a little bit different. He can look up to the field and have 2-3 options, it makes him very hard to defend against."

"He's a huge force in world cricket at the moment. He's probably one of the most sought-after wickets i would imagine in world cricket," he added.

Irritating to see matches being affected by rain: Gill

PTI ■ HAMILTON

Rain-affected matches are an irritant for both players and the paying public, and hence, having closed roof cricket stadiums won't be a bad option, feels young India opener Shubman Gill.

In a six-match white-ball series in New Zealand, two matches (1st T20I in Wellington and Sunday's ODI) were abandoned and one game (Napier T20I) was decided on Duckworth-Lewis method.

Gill, who scored 50 in the first game and was looking in good touch during his unbeaten 45 here, said that it does get frustrating at times.

"This is a decision (playing in indoor stadiums) to be taken by the boards. As a player and as fans, it is irritating to go in and out and see so many matches being affected by rain. But I don't know how I can take a stand for it as it is a big decision. "Obviously closed (retractable) roof (stadiums) would be good," the youngster told mediapersons.

The issue with rain-affected games is planning of the innings as 50 overs was curtailed to 29 overs on the day after a four-hour delay.



"It was very frustrating. You don't know how many overs so you can't plan your innings," Gill, who had hit a purple patch in 50-over cricket, said.

Gill is a strong contender for a place in the squad of 15 for next year's ODI World Cup but he said that he isn't looking that far ahead.

"I am not looking that far ahead and my aim is to make most of the opportunities that I am getting. That's what I am trying to do and make most of the opportunities that I get, trying to score big runs for the team," he stated.



Australia thrash India 7-4 in 2nd hockey Test

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

India could play well only in patches as Blake Govers slammed a brilliant hat-trick to guide Australia to a dominating 7-4 win in the high-scoring second hockey Test here on Sunday. Skipper Harmanpreet Singh struck even before the home team could settle, firing India to a third-minute lead with his precise and powerful penalty-corner conversion.

India looked threatening up front and Harmanpreet almost converted a second one but the home team began to call the shots soon with Govers and Jack Welch leading the goal spree.

The Men in Blue dished out an inspiring show in the third quarter and trailed by just one goal at 3-4, but were blown away in the final 15 minutes due to a sloppy defense.

India endured its 12th straight loss to the world num-

ber one side and now need to win the next two games to keep the five-match series alive.

The third Test of the World Cup build-up series will be played on Wednesday.

Having scored the winning goals in their close 5-4 victory in the first Test, Govers was once again in the thick of action.

He scored his goals in the 12th (PC), 27th and 53rd (penalty) minutes, while Welch secured his brace with his strikes in the 17th and 24th minutes.

Jake Whetton (49th) and Jacob Anderson (48th) were the other goal scorers for the Kookaburras led by Eddie Ockenden, who became the only seventh player in history to make at least 400 International appearances. Hardik Singh (25th) and Mohammed Raheel (PC 36th) struck the other two goals for India, while Harmanpreet completed his brace in the final minute (60th) of the match from a penalty.

England arrive for 1st Test series in Pakistan since 2005

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

England's cricket team arrived in Islamabad early Sunday to play its first Test series in Pakistan since 2005.

Led by Ben Stokes, England will kick off the tour in Rawalpindi -- an adjacent city to Islamabad -- which hosts the first Test from next Thursday. The second Test will be played at Multan from December 9-13 before England round off the tour with the final Test at Karachi from December 17-21.

England had played a seven-match T20 series in Pakistan prior to the T20 World Cup in Australia where it went on to beat Pakistan in the final.

England was due to tour Pakistan last year before the T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates but abandoned the tour due to security concerns after New Zealand had aborted its tour to Pakistan just minutes before the toss in the first ODI at Rawalpindi.

There were some concerns over England's Test tour to Pakistan after former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was wounded in Wazirabad, a district in eastern Punjab province, during his protest against the sitting government.

Pakistan had hosted England twice in a Test series at UAE over the last 17 years with foreign teams reluctant to travel to Pakistan after the Sri Lanka cricket team was attacked in Lahore in 2009.



The three-Test series will be part of World Test Championship where Pakistan is sitting in fifth place while England is seventh. Pakistan needs to win the three-Test series to keep its hopes alive for next year's final.

Pakistan will be without its key fast bowler Shaheen Afridi, who has been ruled out of the series due to knee injury. The home team has also dropped middle-order batter Fawad Alam and ace leg-spinner Yasir Shah due to poor form.

Uncapped fast bowlers Haris Rauf and Mohammad Ali have been called up to the

squad along with mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed, who is expected to make his debut during the series.

England also has injury concerns ahead of the first Test with fast bowler Mark Wood in doubt due to a hip injury. Stuart Broad has been given paternity leave from the tour as England will be banking on its experienced fast bowler James Anderson to trouble Pakistan batters.

England has included 18-year-old Leicestershire all-rounder Rehan Ahmed in the squad after originally drafting him as a net bowler for the tour.

PT Usha set to get elected as IOA chief unopposed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The legendary PT Usha is set to become the first woman president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as she emerged as the lone candidate for the top post for the December 10 elections. The 58-year-old Usha, a multiple Asian Games gold medalists and a fourth-place finisher in the 1984 Olympics 400m hurdles final, filed her nomination papers for the top job on Sunday, along with 14 others from her team for the various posts.

The deadline to file nomination papers for the IOA elections ended on Sunday. IOA elections returning officer Umesh Sinha did not receive any nominations

on Friday and Saturday but 24 candidates filed nominations for various posts on Sunday. There will be contests for one post of vice president (female), joint secretary (female). There were 12 candidates in the fray for four executive council members.

The IOA polls will be held to elect one president, one senior vice-president, two vice-presidents (one male and one female), one treasurer, two joint secretaries (one male and one female), six other Executive Council members, out of which two (one male and one female) shall be from the elected SOMs.

Two members of the Executive Council (one male and one female) will be the Athletes' Commission representatives.

India ends campaign with 11 medals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reigning Asian champion Ravina displayed splendid tenacity to punch her way to gold in the 63kg category final as India ended the Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships with 11 medals in La Nucia, Spain.

Ravina was up against Megan deCler of Netherlands in her final bout. In spite of not getting off to the best of starts, the Indian pugilist utilised her technical ability and quick movement to mount an impressive comeback against her Dutch opponent.

The fiercely contested bout finished in favour of the 2022 Asian Youth gold medalist Indian who won 4-3 by split decision after the bout was reviewed.

In the other final, Kirti (81+ kg)



lost 0-5 to 2022 European youth champion Cliona Elizabeth D'Arcy of Ireland to settle for a silver.

India was a dominant force at the event as the 25-member team bagged 11 medals — four gold, three silver and four bronze.

Overall, 17 Indians had qualified for the quarterfinals of the tournament which was more than any other country in this edition.

India won the highest number of medals — eight — in the women's section, followed by Kazakhstan (5) and Uzbekistan (4).

In the men's category, youth Asian champions Vanshaj (63.5kg), Vishwanath Suresh (48kg) grabbed a gold each while Ashish (54kg) took a silver.

This year's championships witnessed participation of close to 600 boxers from 73 countries.

UAE to host Afghanistan's home games for next 5 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The UAE will host Afghanistan's home games for the next five years, as per an agreement signed between the two cricket boards. The move was prompted by the political situation in Afghanistan which has not hosted international teams.

As part of the agreement, Test-playing nation Afghanistan will play UAE in a three-match T20I series in each of the five years. "We are happy to support the ACB in ensuring that they have a home for their cricket," general secretary of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) Mubashir Usmani said in a statement.

"We are also thankful to the Afghanistan Cricket Board for

agreeing to play a series of T20I matches against UAE team each year. "This will provide our UAE team with invaluable exposure and help in their development," he added.

Until now, the Afghanistan team has been playing and conducting its training sessions on a series-by-series basis. The ECB would also provide logistic support to the ACB.

As per the ICC's Future Tours Programme (FTP), Afghanistan are set to host Australia, Pakistan and West Indies in three ODIs each, as well as Zimbabwe across formats, next year leading into the 2023 ODI World Cup. The matches will be played across venues in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah.

Madhu Babu Thokala is all set to bring to us his first-ever feature film *Anantha* on Dec 9. In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, the director shares some exclusive insights about the upcoming film.



'I have Indianised the westernised concept with *Anantha*'

AMARTYA SMARAN

Scientific thriller *Anantha* which is all set for its theatrical release on December 9, marks Madhu Babu Thokala's first-ever feature film. The film is a remake of *The Man from Earth* which was released in 2007.

In his first, Madhu Babu discusses what inspired him to be a filmmaker, legendary director Mani Ratnam, and what *Anantha* as an ultra-low budget film is set to offer to the Telugu audience.

Although the filmmaker Madhu Babu was super passionate about films from childhood, due to various circumstances, he took the usual route of pursuing a degree in Canada. However, his incredible passion for films couldn't keep him away from the movie world for too long.

Here's debutant Madhu Babu sharing how his passion for movies began from a young age, "Right from childhood, it has always been a dream to work in the film industry. To begin to trace what actually made me choose films over anything is kind of tough. But I found myself doing something or the other related to films while growing up. Other kids would prefer playing cricket, whereas I would be hell-bent on watching a film. I studied in Canada and once I returned home, I was actually heading a huge team at Tata Docomo Services in South India. During that time, coincidentally, my roommate got an opportunity to become a director and it was in 2016 that I got the chance to be a

part of a project. Even as a young student in Canada, I used to look out for film-related work, but the directors whom I approached were not so active in the Indo-Canadian filmmaking scene."

Director Mani Ratnam has been an inspiration for generations of filmmakers in India. Gautam Vasudev Menon publicly admitted on multiple occasions that Mani Ratnam's *Nayakan* was what pushed him to pursue filmmaking. Looks like the long list of young filmmakers taking the Ponniyin Selvan director as their inspiration isn't slowing down at all. "The body of work that Mani Ratnam created over the years inspires me a lot as a filmmaker. He is a master at expressing emotions through nature and I am a nature lover. Thalapathy, Iruvay and Bombay are some of my favourite films," said Madhu.

Sharing some exclusive details about *Anantha*, Madhu enthused, "*Anantha* is a scientific thriller which is set up in a confined location where the entire story unfolds progressively. We haven't dealt with aliens or time travel-based stories in a long time. I can assertively say that the audience down south is up for an interesting experience. Perhaps they might've not seen a film like this before on the silver screen. I have always been intrigued by the stories set up in pre-historic times. I believe that the advancements in the past were superior to what we are seeing today. During prehistoric times, in terms of technological advancements, the human race experienced things which

are beyond our grasp now. *Anantha* reveals something of this nature."

A director who holds his/her cast and crew in high regard has a long way to go in the industry. Madhu Babu absolutely missed no chance in expressing his gratitude towards the people whom he worked with on the project, "RGV's *Konda* fame Prashanth Karthi is playing the lead character and Malayalam actress Laya Simpson who portrayed important characters in films like *Drishyam* and *Bro Daddy* is also a part of our film. Extraordinary artists like Geddam Srinivas who last appeared in *DJ Tillu*, filmmaker-actor Anish Kuruvilla, Ramesh who is doing well for himself in the OTT space and Anil who has been a part of every Bandi Saroj film, are all playing prominent characters in the film. There are about eight characters that drive the narrative forward and each of them has its importance. I must say it's been a blessing to work with all these experienced actors."

It is always challenging to adapt a story that has been made for a different world. However, Madhu says, his exposure to both the western and eastern worlds has enabled him to seamlessly make the necessary changes to the script. "It's interesting how we adapted the story. It is a remake of this Hollywood film called *The Man from Earth* directed by Richard Schenkman and written by Jerome Bixby who is best known for the *Star Trek* series and *The Twilight Zone* franchise. Richard Schenkman adapted this one interesting episode

from the *Star Trek* series which eventually materialised into *The Man from Earth*. In order to actualise the project, we took the license from Falling Sky Entertainments. I have Indianised the westernised concept and I am honestly satisfied with the output. With the content that people have been exposed to with the advent of OTT, I think they will really take a liking to the film. *Anantha* is a film that is a good blend of knowledge and entertainment. I am sure the film would haunt their minds for a day or two," concluded the *Anantha* director.

A special appeal from the creator is that people should encourage ultra-low-budget movies and support the new age content. The director is looking forward to the release of the film, hoping that the Telugu audience will enjoy the new-age experience.



Aishwarya Raj's powerful character in *Sasanasabha*

Political Thriller *Sasanasabha* is generating immense interest with its content. The film stars Aishwarya Raj in the lead role while Rajendra Prasad plays an important role. Indra Sena is played the antagonist role in the movie directed by Venu Madikanti. On Sunday, the makers released the film's trailer.

Rajendra Prasad is seen as a Gandhian and a good samaritan while the trailer showed the current politics and how politicians ignore people after getting their votes. Indra Sen and Aishwarya Raj are introduced in a powerful manner in this trailer loaded with political struggle.

The film also stars Sonia Agarwal, Prudhvi Raj, Jabardasth Apparao, Anish Kuruvilla, and Amit in important roles while Hebba Patel is sizzling in a special song. Ravi Basur's background music and Krishna Murali's cinematography made an impact. Raghavendra Reddy penned powerful dialogues. Thulasi Ram Sappani and Shanmugam Sappani are bankrolling the film on Sabro Production Pvt Ltd banner of Sapro Group.



Allu Arjun & Sree leela to shoot for a commercial ad

Icon Star Allu Arjun is currently enjoying his pan-India stardom and movie lovers are waiting eagerly for the release of his film *Pushpa The Rule*, the sequel to the blockbuster film *Pushpa The Rise*. Almost all the actresses dream of sharing screen presence with him.

Now, young and happening heroine Sreeleela who shot to fame with *Pelli SandaD* got the golden opportunity to act oppo-

site Allu Arjun. Allu Arjun and Sree Leela will be shooting a commercial for Aha Platform. The commercial has been shot and Ravi K Chandran, a popular cinematographer shot it in a lavish way.

Sreeleela is making waves in Tollywood and she is romancing Ravieja in Damaka. Apart from it, reports are coming that the makers of Mahesh Babu-Trivikram's film are planning to cast her as the second heroine. She is also playing the role of Balakrishna's daughter in his next under the direction of Anil Ravipudi.



Ram Charan's *RC16* to be locked soon

Mega Power Star Ram Charan has gained immense fanbase with *RRR*, not only from the North and even other countries audience praised Charan's looks and performance in the film. Ram Charan's next tentatively titled as *#RC15* is currently filming at New Zealand. Visionary Director Shankar is helming this project in Dil Raju's production. All eyes are on Charan's next project. From a longtime project is supposed to be under UV Creations in *Jersey* fame Gowtham Tinnanuri. As story didn't fell in place the project has been called off and several names were heard to direct *RC 16*. But, things have been finalised and the subject along with director and producers are locked for Ram Charan's next.

Buchi Babu Sana who has made a Blockbuster debut with *Uppena* last year is directing *#RC16*. He recently met Ram Charan and narrated the story which impressed Charan alot. As he is also protegee of Sukumar, Ram Charan has an idea about his working style while they were doing Rangasthalam. This might also be one of the reasons for Charan agreeing to do this film. Buchi Babu has said to be came up with a very interesting subject that bowled over Charan. The official announcement of the film will be out today at 11:11 AM.

Sukumar's banner Sukumar Writings is one of the banner and it is being heard that Satish Kiluru who has been looking after finances for big production houses is making his debut as a producer with this film. News is also that the makers are considering DSP and AR Rahman to score the music. Many things are yet to be finalised. The film will launch for Pongal, 2023 and regular shoot will be from February. Meanwhile, more details about the cast and crew will be locked soon.



Dhanush to join hands with H Vinoth?

The versatile actor Dhanush has been delivering some memorable performances like *The Gray Man*, *Naane Varuven*, and *Thiruchitrambalam*. His lineup is also equally exciting with projects including *Vaathi/ Sir*, *Captain Miller*, and *The Gray Man 2*. According to the latest buzz, he will soon be collaborating with director H Vinoth. Both the actor and director are busy with their work commitments at the moment and hence, the yet-to-be-titled movie will go on the floors by 2024.

Further details about the cast and crew of this untitled drama will likely be out after an official announcement. The filmmaker is presently shooting for Ajith Kumar starrer *Thunivu*. After this, the director will reportedly collaborate with superstar Kamal Haasan for the film tentatively named KH 233.



On the other hand, Dhanush will next grace the silver screens with the bilingual drama *Vaathi/ Sir*. The highly-awaited film will be released on 2nd December this year. Made under the direction of Venky Atluri, the movie features Samyuktha Menon as the female lead, along with Sai Kumar, Tanikella Bharani, and



Narra Srinivas in pivotal roles, along with the rest. Meanwhile, Dhanush is currently busy with Arun Matheswaran's directorial *Captain Miller*. Priyanka Arul Mohan has been roped in as the female lead of the drama, which is likely to be released in the second half of 2023. The venture will further see Sundeep Kishan, Priyanka Mohan, and John Kokken in significant roles, along with others.

Trisha's look from *PS-2* goes viral

Mani Ratnam's Magnum Opus *Ponniyin Selvan Part 1* has created history at the Box-office and emerged as Industry Hit in Tamil Nadu. The film amassed Rs 500 crores including all versions all over the world.

The second part of *Ponniyin Selvan*, *PS2* is gearing up to release on April 28, 2023. The major part of filming for *PS2* has already been completed and is into post-production works.

Trisha Krishnan as Chola Princess Kundavai steals the show in *Ponniyin Selvan: I* with her stunning looks and elegant performance. Infact, *Ponniyin Selvan 1* has resurrected Trisha Krishnan's career and once again made her the center of attraction in the glamour field.

The latest is a pic of Trisha Krishnan from *PS2* that has surfaced online. No wonder, she looks captivating carrying the elegance of a princess. She looks gorgeous in a red outfit with all jewellery. Let's wait for the makers to release some pictures officially.

